



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC: ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ORDER IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

Matters of concern to the health of Genesee County residents having been brought to the attention of the Medical Health Officer of the Genesee County Health Department, the Medical Health Officer has made the following determinations, and the Medical Health Officer issues this Order according to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as under State Administrative Rule R325.175(4), promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services under MCL 333.2226(d).

1. Renewal of Determination That A Public Health Emergency Exists: As a result of the continued consequences of the novel Coronavirus Disease of 2019 pandemic (COVID-19), and the determination that a public health emergency existed effective on January 31, 2020, which was renewed as recently as October 18, 2021, that a national public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020. Through its Directors, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued Epidemic Orders, including an order on October 6, 2020, to require the reporting of confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 at schools.
2. The virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) spreads from person to person, primarily through respiratory transmission (aerosolized particles) produced even by quiet breathing. Transmission risk increases with loud voices, coughing, or sneezing. The spread of the virus is more likely to occur indoors and when people are in close contact with one another.
3. Until recently, the [delta variant](#) of the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) had been the dominant variant in Michigan since last summer, contributing to a third surge in the state, straining public health and healthcare systems. The [omicron variant](#) is now causing a further rapid increase in cases locally and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this is believed to be due to the variant's greater transmissibility and immune evasion.
4. According to the MDHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard, as of January 10, 2022, only 10.5% of 5-11-year-olds and 33.2% of 12-15-year-olds in Genesee County are fully vaccinated. A total of 51% of Genesee County residents 5 years of age and older are fully vaccinated.
5. Close contacts of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can infect others with COVID-19 before they or the Genesee County Health Department, have a reasonable basis to believe that they harbor the infectious agent that causes COVID-19. Isolation of individuals who test positive for COVID-19, and quarantine of persons who come in close contact with those who test positive for COVID-19, is necessary for controlling additional transmission of COVID-19.
6. Controlling community transmission has a demonstrated positive impact on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduces the strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, ambulance, patient transport services, and other essential public health services.
7. Genesee County Health Department determines that a person is a [close contact](#) based upon the guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as applied to the local conditions of the COVID-19 epidemic in Genesee County, at the time of the contact.



8. It has been documented that when prevention strategies such as masking, distancing, increased ventilation, and handwashing are applied consistently in the school classroom and bus settings, the school-associated transmission of COVID-19 is significantly reduced.
9. It has been found that testing can be used to preserve in-person learning days for students.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Educational Institutions and all persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following rules:

- a. All persons identified as confirmed or probable positive cases of COVID-19 via rapid antigen or RT-PCR test, regardless of their vaccination status, must isolate:
 1. For a minimum of five (5) days after either symptom onset or specimen collection for persons who were asymptomatic when tested.
 2. After five (5) days, a person may end their isolation period if they have no symptoms or if symptoms are resolving, including no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 3. Persons ending isolation at five (5) must continue to wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five (5) days following the isolation period when around others.
 4. These students may not participate in activities until day 11 if, for safety or other reasons, they are unable to remain masked for that activity.
 5. If individuals cannot wear a mask or have a mask exemption, they cannot return to school until 10 days have passed.
- b. All persons identified as COVID-19 cases must cooperate with the identification of close contacts starting from 2 days (48 hours) before the person has any symptoms (or for asymptomatic persons, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date) to the date the person is interviewed by case investigators. All persons identified as COVID-19 cases must identify and provide contact information for close contacts.
- c. Except as provided below, close contacts of COVID-19 cases identified in keeping with the Genesee County Health Department school guidance are required to quarantine for at least five days (5) after their last exposure to a COVID-19 case. If the individual remains symptom-free, they can resume normal activities on days 6-10 if, but only if they continue self-monitoring for symptoms, adhere to social distancing, wear a tightly fitted face mask over their nose and mouth, and avoid large gatherings on days 6-10.
 1. If offered as an option in their school and they meet the criteria, students who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases and are exposed may continue to attend school if they are masked and:
 - Test negative on days 1, 3, and 5 after the close contact. Depending on the day of the week of the exposure, testing days may be altered slightly, but in any case, three negative tests must be obtained within the first 7 days after exposure: and
 - These students must remain asymptomatic and must wear a tightly fitted face mask over their nose and mouth when around others for an additional five (5) days (days 6-10).



- These students may not participate in activities until day 11 if, for safety or other reasons, they are unable to remain masked for that activity.
2. The following persons who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases do not need to quarantine:
 - Persons who had documented laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 illness within the past 90 days and have recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If a person reports a prior infection that was not a confirmed test, i.e. using a home test, to qualify for the 90-day exclusion for previously positive persons who are asymptomatic, then the school must have documentation that the positive test was reported at the time of infection and that the staff or student had followed the isolation guidelines that were in effect at the time of the prior infection.
 - Persons without COVID-19 symptoms who are fully vaccinated in accordance with CDC guidance. However, these persons must wear a face mask around others for 10 days and test 5 days after exposure if possible.
 3. If an individual is unable to wear a mask or has a mask exemption, they cannot return to school until 10 days have passed.
- d. When confirmed COVID-19 cases are identified among persons in Educational Settings, the designated representatives of the Educational Institution must identify and provide contact information of the persons who test positive for COVID-19 and the close contact to the case investigator as identified in GCHD guidance. The Educational Institutions must require the persons confirmed with COVID-19 and the close contact to isolate and quarantine in accordance with this Order.
 - e. The contents of this Order shall be published to the members of the public at large by all reasonable means available.
 - f. Educational Institutions must disseminate, publish, and post this Order so that it is visible to all staff, students, attendees, and visitors.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the terms below shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

- a. “Close contact” means being within 6 feet of someone who is a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). When cases are at “high” levels as defined by the CDC, “close contact” may be adjusted to reduce the tracing burden on Educational Institutions. See GCHD’s additional Summary of School Guidance.
- b. “Educational Institutions” or “Educational Settings” shall include all public, private, vocational, and charter schools that provide pre-K through 12th-grade education in Genesee County. For preschool or other classrooms that include any child under age five within an Educational Setting, the order for masking of all staff, volunteers, and children ages 3 and up, remains in place for those classrooms, per MHO order dated November 15, 2021.



This definition includes affiliated extracurricular activities, such as school athletics. It does not include preschools not a part of a K-12 building or district.

- c. “Fully vaccinated persons” as per the CDC definition.
- d. “Household close contact” means a close contact that lives with a COVID-19 case in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, “households” are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.
- e. “Persons in Educational Settings” means students, teachers, administrative staff, other employees, visitors, or volunteers of Educational Institutions.

This Order does not repeat or supersede current MDHHS or Federal Epidemic Orders, which are incorporated by reference herein.

If any provision of this order is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether in whole or in part, such a decision will not affect the validity of the remaining part of this order.

Violation of this Order will be enforced pursuant to the terms of Michigan’s Public Health Code, including, but not limited to, misdemeanor enforcement and/or civil monetary penalties.

This Order may be revised and supplemented in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code. It remains in effect until rescinded by the Medical Health Officer for GCHD.

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