



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County  
General Health District**

January 27, 2022

Dear Butler County Parents and Guardians,

On January 26, 2022, the Ohio Department of Health released updated COVID-19 contact tracing guidance for K-12 schools in Ohio. The guidance indicates K-12 schools can stop contact tracing related to COVID-19 effective immediately.

As COVID-19 has evolved, public health mitigation strategies have had to adjust periodically to address new challenges. The quick spread of the Omicron variant along with its rapid clinical trajectory have made universal contact tracing, case investigation and exposure notification impractical with newly reduced timelines for quarantine and isolation.

The Butler County General Health District (BCGHD) has been working with school administrators to implement this updated guidance. Schools will no longer provide our department with close contacts of cases of COVID-19, and our department will no longer be placing close contacts in quarantine.

If your student has been placed in quarantine by BCGHD in the past 10 days, their quarantine period is now over, and they can return to normal activities. Individuals that are close contacts to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask for 10 days after their exposure and monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19.

Additionally, students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend school, and they should be tested. Anyone that tests positive for COVID-19 should stay home for 5 days. They can return to normal activities on the 6<sup>th</sup> day after their symptoms began as long as their symptoms are resolving, they do not have a fever, and they should wear a mask for 5 additional days.

Our staff will continue to work with the school districts to assist with controlling the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, and we will recommend appropriate measures if they are warranted.

BCGHD encourages anyone that is eligible to be vaccinated as the best defense against serious illness and death from COVID-19. If you have questions regarding COVID-19, please visit our website at **[health.bcoho.us](https://health.bcoho.us)**.

Sincerely,

Erik Balster, MPH, REHS, RS  
Butler County Health Commissioner

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Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director

To: Local Health Departments and K-12 School Superintendents  
From: Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director, Ohio Department of Health  
Date: Jan. 26, 2022  
Subject: Contact Tracing and Case Investigation Statement

As COVID-19 has evolved, public health mitigation strategies have had to adjust periodically to address new challenges. The quick spread of the Omicron variant and its rapid clinical course have made universal contact tracing, case investigation and exposure notification impractical when combined with newly reduced timelines for quarantine and isolation.

Therefore, effective immediately:

- The Ohio Department of Health recommends that local health departments (LHDs) shift from universal contact tracing, case investigation and exposure notification to a cluster- or outbreak-based model. This strategy prioritizes people in high-risk settings, such as congregate residential settings (e.g., shelters, correctional facilities, and nursing homes) or for certain circumstances such as outbreaks or clusters in specific settings or in relation to initial cases or clusters associated with new variants, as appropriate.
- Schools may discontinue universal contact tracing but are expected to assist LHDs with contact tracing, case investigation and exposure notification related to outbreaks or clusters in schools as determined by the LHD. K-12 schools should continue to follow ODH's protocol, "[Mask to Stay, Test to Play](#)," and allow asymptomatic students to attend school while wearing a mask if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. The best place for kids is in school, in-person, full-time.
- ODH also will change the school case reporting cadence to weekly. Schools should report positive student and staff cases to their LHDs by close of business on Fridays. LHDs will continue to report on the same weekly cadence. This schedule will begin on Friday, Feb. 4. ODH will continue to evaluate related school reporting requirements.

LHDs should continue providing education and messaging to the general public about steps to take after exposure or a positive test. The attached [flow chart](#) may be shared with the public to explain how they should proceed after testing positive for COVID-19 or being exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

This is also a good time to remind the public of mitigation strategies that work against transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases:

- Please encourage people to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster doses. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are the best prevention tool we have against severe illness and death.
- Reinforce the importance of mask wearing, physical distancing, improving ventilation, hand washing, cough etiquette, testing, and staying home if you are sick.

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE COVID-19

Regardless of Symptoms or Vaccination Status

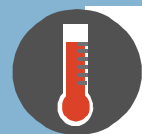


- Stay home for the next five days regardless of symptoms or vaccination status.



- Stay away from other people as much as possible (including those in your own household).

- If you can't stay away from other people, wear a three-layer (or better) mask.



- Do you have a fever or other symptoms that haven't started to get better on day six?



**YES**



- Stay home until your fever is gone and other symptoms are better.



- Wear a mask for the next five days.



**NO**



- Resume activities with a mask.
- Wear a mask for the next five days.

**If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 and waiting for your test results, stay home until you get your results.**

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19\*\*

And Your COVID-19 Vaccines Are Up to Date

- If you received a booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

or

- If you completed the primary series\* of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine less than five months ago.

or

- If you completed the primary series\* of Johnson & Johnson vaccine less than two months ago.



For  
10  
days

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days after your last exposure.
- Test on day five.
- If you develop symptoms or test positive, stay home.

If you tested positive for COVID-19 in the 90 days before your exposure.

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home.

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19\*\*

And You are Unvaccinated or Your Vaccines **Are Not** Up to Date

- If you are unvaccinated or only received one dose of Pfizer or Moderna.

or

- If you completed the primary series\* of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than five months ago.

or

- If you completed the primary series\* of Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than two months ago and no booster.



For  
5  
days

- Stay home for five days after your last exposure, then wear a mask around others for the next five days.
- Test on day five.
- If you develop symptoms or test positive, stay home.

\*A primary series consists of one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine; or two doses of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine; or three doses of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine if you received an additional dose because you are immunocompromised.

Thank you to Clark County Combined Health District for sharing its graphic with the Ohio Department of Health.

# How to Handle Common COVID-19 Situations



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This is a simplified guide to the most common situations with COVID-19 quarantine and isolation.

## You test positive for COVID-19

- Stay home for 5 days and stay away from other people.
- The day after you start having symptoms counts as day 1.
- If you don't have symptoms, day 1 is the day after you were tested.
- If you don't have a fever and feel much better on day 6, you can leave your home, but you must wear a tight-fitting mask until day 11.

## You are sick but test negative for COVID-19

- Stay home until your fever is gone for at least 24hrs without taking medicine that reduces fevers (like Tylenol or Advil).
- If you never had a fever to begin with, stay home until you feel and sound better.
- Consider being tested for the flu.

## You were exposed to someone with COVID-19

- Wear a tight-fitting mask for the next 10 days when you are around other people indoors.
- If you do not have symptoms, wait to get tested until 5 days after your exposure to the person who has COVID-19.

## Someone in your house tests positive for COVID-19

- Try to keep the person who tested positive away from others, if possible (in a separate room).
- People in the house that start having symptoms should get tested.
- People in the house without symptoms should wait 5 days to get tested.
- Those not currently sick and living with the person infected with COVID-19, should wear a well fitted mask when leaving the home as soon as the household is aware of the positive result **AND** for 10 days following your last contact with the person infected.