



Madison County Public Health COVID-19 Protective Actions & Focus Areas Madison County K-12 Schools 2020-2021 School Year

Protective actions are individual or environmental conditions and behaviors that reduce risk.

Layering multiple protective actions reduces the risk of COVID-19 spreading in both our schools and in our community and increases the likelihood that our schools will remain open as much as possible. Some protective actions for schools will allow for very little variance in how those actions will be applied. Some protective actions will have quite a bit of implementation variance and will allow the school some flexibility to develop plans to meet the requirements. While the protective actions apply to all areas of the school, several focus areas are included with specific guidance.

- All protective actions are required to be implemented unless otherwise explained.
- The Ohio Public Health Advisory System should be used as a guide to select a method of instruction including in-person, remote, or hybrid/blended plans. Work to prepare and provide options for remote instruction (for teachers) and learning (for students).
- Encourage parents to talk with their children and practice hand hygiene, physical distancing, and using facial coverings at home over the summer so they are better prepared for the new school year.
- During the first few weeks of school, encourage teachers to repeatedly educate students on 1) the behaviors associated with the protective actions, and 2) how to effectively use remote learning should it be needed throughout your entire school district at some point during the year.

Protective Actions – Requirements and Considerations

High Risk Populations	Encourage high risk students (those of <i>any age</i> with <u>chronic underlying conditions</u>) to use remote learning. Work to offer remote working options to high risk staff if their job duties permit.
Environments & Air Flow	Conduct any school activity or instruction outside when possible. Being outside is not a substitute for any other protective action. Within the scope of and compliance with existing school safety plans, make every effort to mix as much outside air into buildings (ie, open doors and windows) while working to maintain a reasonably comfortable indoor environment. Within system design capabilities, set HVAC systems to bring in the maximum amount of outside air and improve central air filtration by increasing air filtration to as high as possible (MERV 13 or 14 recommended). Operate ventilation systems and exhaust fans continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Disable demand-control ventilation (DCV) controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy.

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Our Mission
We are committed to monitoring and responding to our community's health and wellness needs through innovative services, education, collaboration, and compassionate care.



Protective Actions – Requirements and Considerations

Facial Coverings	<p>All staff, students, and visitors (including outside contractors) must wear a cloth face covering while at school. Coverings must be worn over the nose, mouth, and chin. Staff or students who have a documented (from his/her doctor) <i>medical breathing issue</i> that prevents a cloth facial covering from being worn must wear a clear face shield. Students who refuse to wear a cloth facial covering (or a face shield if they have an aforementioned documented medical breathing issue) may not be in the school. Facial coverings may be removed for eating during school-designated breakfast and lunch times (or snack time for elementary students) and <i>briefly</i> to get a drink of water. Facial coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing or any other protective action. Provide education to staff and students on 1) how to properly wear coverings, 2) not touch coverings while they are on, 3) how to clean or sanitize your hands after touching the covering, 4) how to properly remove a facial covering, and 5) how to properly put a facial covering back on. (<i>consider explaining to elementary students to remove their face covering if they have to vomit</i>)</p> <p>*Intervention specialists, title teachers, speech teachers, pre-k through third grade teachers, teachers with a documented medical hearing issue, and all of their associated students must use cloth face coverings; however, a face shield may be used in lieu of a cloth face covering only during times of instruction when the observation of mouth features and movement are needed provided that the physical distancing protective action can be maintained. OT/PT/MD teachers, who work with students who cannot wear any type of facial covering, must wear a cloth face covering and a face shield.</p>
Physical Distancing	<p>Make all reasonable attempts to maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between members of different households. When 6 feet of separation is not reasonably possible in classrooms, maintain physical distancing of at least 3 feet between members of different households. Use physical barriers, tape, lines, cones, or other methods to guide and protect students and staff. Physical distancing is not a substitute for facial coverings or any other protective action. During instruction, staff may briefly be close to students if necessary; this time must be minimal (ideally less than 5 minutes) and facial coverings must be worn. Close unnecessary areas where you believe people may gather in groups. This section does not apply to transportation.</p>
Communication	<p>Communicate plans to staff, students, and families about protective actions, rules, and expectations ahead of time. Establish clear expectations of behavior including consequences for not following the rules. Develop a plan for enforcing rules and guidelines ahead of time including who will enforce the rules and the process for warnings and corresponding actions.</p>





Protective Actions – Requirements and Considerations

Symptom Checks	Require staff and students check themselves for all COVID-19 symptoms each day before coming to school. Consider on-site screenings (including but not limited to fever checks) before entry to the building. Staff or students may not enter school if they 1) have symptoms, 2) have a household member with symptoms, 3) have a household member that is a confirmed case, or 4) are themselves quarantined as a contact of a confirmed case. Consider a daily online symptom check form that parents must complete. Require students who develop a fever or symptoms at school to wear a surgical mask, be separated from other students, and be picked up within 1 hour of notification to the parent or guardian. A fever is considered a temperature above 100°F.
Signs	Post signs listing all symptoms of COVID-19. Signs should instruct individuals with symptoms OR individuals with a household member at home with symptoms to stay home (they are not permitted in the school). Post signs encouraging good hygienic practices, cleaning, face coverings, and distancing.
Time & Flow Control	Staff and students should spend the minimum amount of time in the building as possible. Set daily times for the building to be open and closed to students and staff (except for custodial or similar staff). Stagger arrival and departure times. Make additional entrances and exits available to students to avoid clustering. Monitor flow of traffic into and out of buildings. Consider shortened school days combined with remote learning or alternating in-person and remote days.
Surfaces, Objects, & Cleaning	Remove any objects and surfaces that are not necessary. Remove common or shared items and displays that people are likely to touch. Clean frequently touched common areas, objects, and equipment between classes and at least every 2 hours while school is in session. Clean objects, surfaces, equipment, and shared items between uses. Use cleaning products that are effective against coronavirus.
Hand Hygiene	Provide handwashing areas and make sure soap/paper towels are filled. Provide hand sanitizer in all rooms and in high-touch and high-flow areas. Encourage staff and students to bring their own personal hand sanitizer.
Contact Tracing	Provide names and phone numbers of all staff and students to Madison County Public Health who may have been in close contact with a positive case two days before 1) the onset of symptoms, or, 2) the date of testing. <i>(contact tracing and return-to-school procedures will be provided in a separate document)</i>





Focus Areas – Requirements and Considerations	
Transportation	Encourage parents to individually transport their children/household to school and avoid carpooling. No more than 2 students per seat on a school bus. Cloth facial coverings are required for staff and students on a bus. Make every effort to mix as much outside air into the bus while working to maintain a reasonably comfortable interior environment. Open bus windows as much as possible while transporting students.
Open House	Conduct by appointment only. Stagger arrival and departure times. Require facial coverings for staff and all family members coming to Open House. Maintain physical distancing and all other protective actions.
Visitors	Cancel all social visits that are not essential. Limit visitors permitted inside the school to those who are critically necessary for the staff or students.
Homerooms & Switching Classes	When practical for the subject being taught, move teachers from room to room (not students). Use live-streaming services to broadcast lessons to rooms.
Restrooms	Implement scheduled restroom times similar to what is used during state testing. The maximum number of people permitted in restrooms is equal to the number of stalls plus ½ the number of urinals.
Water Fountains	Ask students to provide their own water. Limit the use of water fountains to refilling bottles. Monitor water fountains and clean frequently.
Food	Breakfast and lunch must be eaten in individual homerooms whenever possible. Common areas or cafeterias can be used as a second option if physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained between students of different households. The same applies to staff lunch areas. Encourage people to bring their own food and drinks when possible. School-provided meals must be individually packaged. Discourage snacks between meals unless they are needed for medical reasons or for elementary students. Provide handwashing or hand sanitizer before meals and snacks.
Assemblies & Gatherings	Do not conduct assemblies, pep rallies, gatherings, or other activities that put large numbers of people together outside the classroom setting.
Field Trips	Cancel all field trips. Consider coordinating virtual field trips.
Clubs, Committees, Meetings, & Conferences	Conduct activities remotely to reduce the overall time spent in the school building. If activities cannot be conducted remotely, ensure all required protective actions in this document are implemented and that, when possible, activities are conducted outside.





Focus Area	Considerations
Latchkey	Consider cancelling latchkey and after-school childcare to reduce the overall time spent in the school building. If latchkey is not cancelled, ensure all required protective actions are implemented and that, when possible, latchkey is outside.
Recess	Conduct recess outside and with a single homeroom. Instruct students to maintain physical distancing outside and monitor. If physical distancing can be reasonably maintained, facial coverings are not required outside during recess. Require students to wash their hands with soap and water when returning from outside recess. Clean equipment as often as practical. Use alternative activities for inside recess that maintain physical distancing and facial coverings.
Music	Conduct choir and band outdoors. Singing and playing instruments are not permitted in indoor environments.
Sports	Adhere to all state orders and safety guidelines for school sports practices, training, competitions, games, and activities.
Physical Education	Conduct activities outdoors. Instruct students to maintain physical distancing outside and monitor. If physical distancing can be reasonably maintained, facial coverings are not required during outside physical education class. Indoor instruction is limited to activities that are not strenuous (those that do not generally cause heavy breathing or coughing). Follow requirements for cleaning equipment between uses and classes.
Special Area Subjects (i.e., library, art, music)	Conduct in homerooms when possible using strategies such as "art on a cart." Limit shared equipment and supplies. Follow requirements for cleaning equipment between uses and classes.
Science & Computer Labs	Limit shared equipment and supplies. Follow requirements for cleaning equipment between uses and classes.

