

From: [Russo, Kelly](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Lynn, Katherine](#); [Timbo, Kadjiatu](#); [Graham, Kiauna](#); [Kesler, Kelly](#); [Rossman, Maura](#)
Subject: [External] Hammond High School Recommendations
Date: Sunday, January 9, 2022 8:49:26 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-gs2nwwfw.png](#)

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Hi Kerrie,

From your testing data, it appears that Hammond has a test positivity rate of 10.4% for students. Our county positivity rate during that time was approximately 28%. We do recognize these cases represent community transmission which occurred while schools were closed. At this time, the school does not meet criteria for an outbreak.

The testing was helpful to find unknown positives and isolate them so secondary transmission could be interrupted. As you know, after a positive case is identified, quarantining close contacts is the next step to prevent new cases.

While the HCHD will interview cases for community contact tracing purposes, we are unable to do school contact tracing, as we don't have access to school information. If school contact tracing cannot be performed to identify and quarantine contacts, weekly testing of staff and students should occur to provide early identification and isolation of cases.

Here are our recommendations to prevent additional cases in the school:

1. Perform weekly screening testing of all staff and students, regardless of vaccination status.
2. Test all students who participate in high-risk sports (e.g. wrestling, basketball, cheerleading, etc.) or activities (e.g. chorus, band, etc.) weekly regardless of vaccination status. If in a cohort outbreak, test twice weekly.
3. Avoid holding large gatherings (e.g. assemblies, concerts, spectators at sporting events, etc.).
4. Consider postponing high-risk activities if there is an outbreak in that cohort.
5. Encourage vaccination (primary series and boosters if eligible) for students and staff, especially for students participating in high-risk activities.
6. Perform diagnostic testing on staff and students with symptoms of COVID.
7. Enforce consistent and correct mask use by staff and students.
8. Promote physical distancing of 3 feet between students when possible.
9. Provide adequate ventilation throughout the school.
10. Ensure proper hand washing practices.
11. Identify and report new cases and outbreaks in a timely manner.
12. Provide contact information when available, especially in outbreaks or high-risk

settings.

I encourage you to review the CDC website for more information on the prevention and control of COVID in the K-12 setting:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-contact-tracing/about-isolation.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor_1625661984621

Kelly

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Russo, Kelly](#)
Subject: [External] FW: Tuesday Thoughts: UnMask Our Children
Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 5:45:56 PM

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Hi Kerrie,

I am sending this email for HCPSS to respond. It was not HCHD's recommendation to purchase K95's for staff and students. Our recommendation remains to wear a well fitted comfortable mask that the individual will wear reliably. We recommend surgical masks over cloth masks. We generally only recommend respirators for HCW's in particular settings due to the requirements for fit testing and the challenge wearing them for long periods of time. While I believe there is not much harm in the general public wearing respirators, I am concerned that people wearing them may not wear them properly, exposing themselves more than a surgical mask, and have a false sense of security about wearing these mask.

Thanks,
Maura

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Shannon Blount](#)
Cc: [Russo, Kelly](#); [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Maureen Mehrstens](#); [Rebecca Sutula](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: household contacts
Date: Sunday, January 2, 2022 2:02:10 PM

Shannon,
Its a bit complicated since we don't know the level of isolation and quarantine the family is enforcing.
But essentially I recommend the 5+5 understanding that serial testing may play a role in reducing the tail end depending upon specific circumstances.
Best,
Maura
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 30, 2021, at 5:15 PM, Shannon Blount <shannon_blount@hcpss.org> wrote:

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So, do they still continue to follow the guidance that if they are unvaccinated household contacts, their quarantine starts the day after the case's isolation ends? So in that case would that be on day 6 now instead of day 11? And they can test out after their 5 days of quarantine, which would now be day 11 instead of day 16? Did I lose you all?

*Shannon Blount, MS, RN, CRNP
Specialist, Health Services
Program Innovation and Student Well Being
Howard County Public School System
10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-7340*

Wear a mask...six feet apart...take care of each other...get vaxxed!
Covid vaccines available in Howard County:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine#health-department-vaccination-clinics>

From: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Shannon Blount <Shannon_Blount@hcpss.org>
Cc: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>; Maureen Mehrstens <Maureen_Mehrstens@hcpss.org>; Rebecca Sutula <Rebecca_Sutula@hcpss.org>
Subject: [External] Re: household contacts

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Shannon,
Household contacts are treated as close contacts and follow quarantine recommendations.

Best,
M

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 30, 2021, at 4:46 PM, Shannon Blount
<shannon_blount@hcpss.org> wrote:

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization.
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Hello! I have already had a question about quarantine for household contacts with the new CDC Guidance. Will you be addressing that in your guidance for HoCo?

Thanks!
Shannon

*Shannon Blount, MS, RN, CRNP
Specialist, Health Services
Program Innovation and Student Well Being
Howard County Public School System
10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-7340*

Wear a mask...six feet apart...take care of each other...get vaxxed!

Covid vaccines available in Howard County:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine#health-department-vaccination-clinics>

From: [Russo, Kelly](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Shannon Blount](#); [Maureen Mehrrens](#); [Rebecca Sutula](#)
Cc: [Rossman, Maura](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Quarantine for those ineligible for booster/vax
Date: Thursday, December 30, 2021 6:04:56 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-nxzk0y2.png](#)
[Outlook-ggguqvzz.png](#)
[Outlook-c1v4sv00.png](#)

The CDC guidance from the 12/28 media release (which is the only writtent guidance to date) does not have different recommendations based on whether or not someone is old enough to get the booster, only if the person has been boosted.

Data shows that immunity wanes significantly over time with only 2 doses and after the booster, immunity is restored almost to levels seen shortly after a primary series. So, I think it makes sense biologically to consider them unboosted and quarantine them, which is how I am interpreting the CDC guidance.

We'll let you know if there is other guidance released to address this.

Kelly

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
Medical Director
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Fax: 410-313-7502



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From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:26 PM

To: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Shannon Blount <shannon_blount@hcpss.org>; Maureen Mehrrens <Maureen_Mehrrens@hcpss.org>; Rebecca Sutula <rebecca_sutula@hcpss.org>

Cc: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Re: [External] Quarantine for those ineligible for booster/vax

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That's my impression, but what we were concerned about was the vaccinated and not eligible for a booster like the 12 year olds. If not eligible for a booster, but it's been 6 months, do they quarantine?

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Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

*WOO*Communication*Positivity*Achiever*Includer*

From: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:19 PM

To: Shannon Blount <Shannon_Blount@hcpss.org>; Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>; Maureen Mehrrens <Maureen_Mehrrens@hcpss.org>; Rebecca Sutula <Rebecca_Sutula@hcpss.org>

Cc: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Re: [External] Quarantine for those ineligible for booster/vax

That's how I read it as well. I think the CDC put out some confusing information on some calls.

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
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From: Shannon Blount <Shannon_Blount@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:16 PM

To: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Kerrie Wagaman <kerrie_wagaman@hcpss.org>; Maureen Mehrtens <Maureen_Mehrtens@hcpss.org>; Rebecca Sutula <rebecca_sutula@hcpss.org>

Cc: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Re: [External] Quarantine for those ineligible for booster/vax

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I read it as stay home for 5 days, mask for 5. Just like anyone else who isn't vaccinated. Am I reading it wrong?

*Shannon Blount, MS, RN, CRNP
Specialist, Health Services
Program Innovation and Student Well Being
Howard County Public School System
10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-7340*

Wear a mask...six feet apart...take care of each other...get vaxxed!

Covid vaccines available in Howard County:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine#health-department-vaccination-clinics>

From: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:09 PM

To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>; Shannon Blount <Shannon_Blount@hcpss.org>; Maureen Mehrtens <Maureen_Mehrtens@hcpss.org>; Rebecca Sutula <Rebecca_Sutula@hcpss.org>

Cc: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: [External] Quarantine for those ineligible for booster/vax

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Hi,

I just wanted to clarify something that was said today. I am not under the impression that unvaccinated 0-4 or unboosted 5-15 years olds are exempt from quarantine. Can someone provide a reference for that? I've heard it from a few people over the last day or so, and I can't find that guidance anywhere on the CDC or other website.

Thanks,
Kelly

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Russo, Kelly](#); kerri.wagaman@hcpss.org; [Graham, Kiauna](#); [Painter, Lenora](#)
Subject: [External] Recommendations for Isolation and Quarantine
Date: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:38:23 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-up13zq2i.png](#)

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Dear Kerrie,

The Howard County Health Department is endorsing the CDC's isolation and quarantine guidance for the general population released on December 28, 2021, including in the K-12 school setting.

We are expecting additional CDC and MDH guidance specific to the school setting in the near future, and we will modify our recommendations if needed.

Please see the following table which can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>:

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5

additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home



HOWARD COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Michael Martirano](#)
Cc: [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#)
Subject: [External] WLHS Out Break
Date: Monday, December 20, 2021 5:45:12 PM
Attachments: [WLHS recs 12.20.2021final.docx](#)

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Dear Dr. Martirano,

We are aware of increasing cases at Wilde Lake High School which is now considered in a school wide outbreak. See attached letter for guidance and recommendations.

Thank you,
Maura

Maura J. Rossman, MD
Health Officer
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia MD 21045
410 313-6363

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Lynn, Katherine](#); [Graham, Kiauna](#); [Timbo, Kadjiatu](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Corvoisier, Natalie](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Resuming activities following school outbreak/suspension of activities
Date: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:18:08 PM

Kerrie,

The letters to OM and H included the following:

3. *All athletes and students who participate in high risk sports (e.g. wrestling, basketball, cheerleading, etc.) or activities (e.g. chorus, band, etc.) should be tested twice a week, regardless of vaccination status.*
4. *Consider postponing high-risk events/activities if there is an outbreak in that cohort.*

HCHD recommends as preventative measure surveillance testing of athletes that participate in high risk sports regardless of vaccine status. This should continue until community/school rates are in the moderate or low range. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Resumption of the paused athletic activity is recommended when the cohort OB is cleared or it believed further transmission has been mitigated.

Thanks,

Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] RE: Resuming activities following school outbreak/suspension of activities

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We were using the HCHD outbreak letters that were sent announcing the school with the recommendations to "pause" certain activities. They were looking for a way to initiate those activities.

Kerrie Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
Director of Health Services

Department of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being

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Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

On Dec 20, 2021 2:54 PM, "Rossman, Maura" <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

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Kerrie,

Happy to discuss. We're free later this afternoon. Is HCPSS making decisions to stop athletics based upon MDH website designation? In general resumption of an activity is based upon several factors including why they were stopped in the first place (details of the OB's) and mitigation efforts in place to prevent transmission, (new strategies or enforcement of prior strategies), and case data (community and school).

Thanks,
Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:23 PM

To: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>; Russo, Kelly <kruosso@howardcountymd.gov>

Cc: Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Fw: Resuming activities following school outbreak/suspension of activities

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Drs. Rossman and Russo,

Would you mind weighing-in on the options below on when to re-engage activities.

Kerrie L. Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
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Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

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From: Brian W. Bassett <Brian_Bassett@hcpss.org>

Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:20 PM

To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Subject: Resuming activities following school outbreak/suspension of activities

Kerrie,

Could we receive HCHD guidance on this? When a school receives the school outbreak designation and we suspend all extracurricular activities at that school, when should we consider resuming those activities? Below are the three options we were considering but they may also have a completely different thought. Any guidance would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

- **Option 1:** Suspend activities for 14 days with a reevaluation coming after 10. At that point we can make the decision to return after 14 days or extend the suspension depending on how many students have been cleared to return.
- **Option 2:** Suspend all extracurriculars at a school for the entire duration of time the school is considered to have an outbreak by the MDH website even if most students have been cleared to return.
- **Option 3:** Suspend activities for the remainder of the week (between 1-5 days) and reevaluate each week for the following week.

Brian W. Bassett

Director of Communication and Engagement
Howard County Public School System

bbassett@hcpss.org

410-313-1505 (w)

From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [HSLT](#); [Lynn, Katherine](#); [Allison Whitney](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Graham, Kiauna](#); [Timbo, Kadjiatu](#); [Corvoisier, Natalie](#)
Subject: RE: [External] RE: School wide outbreak
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:48:42 AM

Hi Kerrie,

We reviewed the data holistically, and do not recommend mass screening at these two schools because the cohorts do not contain large groups of children and the case rates are not comparatively very high.

It is important to note that our data lags HCPSS data and knowing that not all cases receive CT, you have more information than we do at any one time. So if you are seeing trends or concerns in cases, the only way we can make the best recommendations is for just in time data sharing. Also without CT we are unable to identify cohorts, so the definition of school wide OB defaults to more than 5% of school population. And even then more details are needed to make refined recommendations.


As mentioned at the BOE meeting, if we are to get through this we need to make more targeted decisions and recommendations. That only happens with accurate and timely data.

Thanks,
Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: HSLT <hslt@inst.hcpss.org>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Allison Whitney <Allison_Whitney@hcpss.org>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] RE: School wide outbreak

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I understand. It was referenced in both of the letters. We can discuss.

Kerrie L. Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
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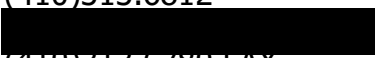
From: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Cc: HSLT <hslt@inst.hcpss.org>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Allison Whitney <Allison_Whitney@hcpss.org>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: School wide outbreak

Kerri,
Left you a message. We don't have sufficient information to make a recommendation.
Thanks,
Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: HSLT <hslt@inst.hcpss.org>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Allison Whitney <Allison_Whitney@hcpss.org>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] RE: School wide outbreak

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

No, just whether we go with MHHS as recommended yesterday or if you had another preference.

Kerrie L. Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
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(410)313.6812

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Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

*WOO*Communication*Positivity*Achiever*Includer*

From: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 9:49 AM

To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Cc: HSLT <hslt@inst.hcpss.org>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Allison Whitney <Allison_Whitney@hcpss.org>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: [External] RE: School wide outbreak

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Hi Kerri,

We make these decisions on a case by case based upon multiple factors. Can you clarify what you want to stand up and why you have selected these schools? There are other schools with higher case rates and cohort OB's.

Thanks,
Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Sent: Friday, December 17, 2021 6:10 AM

To: Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>; Timbo, Kadjiatu <ktimbo@howardcountymd.gov>; Graham, Kiauna <KGraham@howardcountymd.gov>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>; Allison Whitney <Allison_Whitney@hcpss.org>; HSLT <hslt@inst.hcpss.org>

Subject: School wide outbreak

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Good morning,

Given that Mount Hebron is now a school outbreak and so is Laurel Woods, if we can stand up one of them for Monday, would you prioritize MHHS?

Also, checking to see if others came up yesterday? I saw a bunch of additional cohorts get added but wanted to double check.

Thanks again for joining in on the BOE last night.

Kerrie Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
Director of Health Services

Department of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being

Division of Academics

Howard County Public Schools System
ARL Building
(410)313.6812



(410)313.6780 FAX

Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Michael Martirano](#)
Cc: [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Painter, Lenora](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#)
Subject: [External] Hammond HS
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:58:57 PM
Attachments: [Hammond recs 12.14.2021final.docx](#)

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Dear Dr. Martirano,

We briefly discussed Hammond HS yesterday. Hammond is now considered to be in outbreak status.

Recommendations are similar to those shared yesterday for OMHS.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Maura

Maura J. Rossman, MD

Health Officer

Howard County Health Department

8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia MD 21045

410 313-6363

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Michael Martirano](#)
Cc: [Russo, Kelly](#); [Painter, Lenora](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#); [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Subject: [External] HCPSS COVID Response Recommendations
Date: Monday, December 13, 2021 4:38:08 PM
Attachments: [Oakland Mills recs 12.13.2021final.docx](#)
[Managing COVID Response in Schoolsfinal 1213 \(1\).docx](#)
[COVID data schools.pptx](#)
[Covid memo schools \(1\).docx](#)

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Dear Dr. Martirano,

Thank you taking the time to discuss options in regard to the school outbreak in Oakland Mills HS.

Please let us know when you are able to take receipt of the Home Based Tests.

Attached are several documents that summarize the discussion:

1. Recommendations for Outbreak Control at Oakland Mills High School
2. Managing COVID Response in Schools - General Recommendations updated from September.
3. COVID Testing Options – previously shared
4. Power Point – HCPSS COVID cases past 2 months

Best regards,

Maura

Maura J. Rossman, MD

Health Officer

Howard County Health Department

8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia MD 21045

410 313-6363

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From: [Russo, Kelly](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Hobson, Sharon](#); [Hofmann, Kristina](#); [Rossman, Maura](#); [Graham, Kiauna](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Sx, Ag neg
Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 10:37:13 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-1dzybj5u.png](#)
[Outlook-n0m0fqyv.png](#)
[Outlook-i5hggrxu.png](#)

Hi Kerrie,

We deliberated and talked to front line staff, and we have decided to stay the course with requiring a PCR for symptomatic/Ag neg people. We have 1-2 cases like this per week, and with so many still unvaccinated, the potential for outbreaks is high, especially since our case rates aren't decreasing. Once more students are vaccinated, case rates go down and we're seeing less outbreaks, or if turn around time for PCR increases, we will revisit.

Thanks,
Kelly

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd
Columbia, MD 21045
Email: krusso@howardcountymd.gov
Phone: 410-313-7226
Fax: 410-313-7502



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From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Sx, Ag neg

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Yes, correct, fever always goes home. Vomiting and diarrhea may not typically go home with one episode. We have kids with sore throat and headache would be the big ones.

Kerrie L. Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
Director of Health Services
Department of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being
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(410)313.6812
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Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

*WOO*Communication*Positivity*Achiever*Includer*

From: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Cc: Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Sx, Ag neg

What symptoms are they typically showing up with? Ones that wouldn't require them to leave school normally? If a student has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, they are sent home regardless, correct?

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd
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Fax: 410-313-7502



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From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Sx, Ag neg

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Correct, the major benefit would be on the student not needing to leave school to quarantine. If the test comes back positive, the nurse has to go back and contact trace from 1-3 days ago which is a challenge, however recognizing that the case should be home since he/she was positive.

Kerrie L. Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
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Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

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From: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 11:09 AM

To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Cc: Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: [External] Sx, Ag neg

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Hi Kerrie,

As mentioned on Friday, we are reviewing our testing recommendations for symptomatic individuals with a negative antigen test (current recs-do a confirmatory PCR). We looked at the test result data as best we can (not actively collecting this info) and we are seeing average 1-2 per week of symptomatic, antigen negative, PCR positive people. Some of these are in known OB schools though (people were not identified as a contact).

If we changed the recommendation to not require a confirmatory PCR, how would this affect the staff's workload? Contacts don't need to be quarantined, or even identified until a positive result. PCR tests are readily available and many times the result can be available within a day. What would be the benefit balancing out the risk of not isolating a person who is positive?

We want to be thoughtful about changing this and I wanted to get input from you.

Thanks!
Kelly

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd
Columbia, MD 21045
Email: krusso@howardcountymd.gov
Phone: 410-313-7226
Fax: 410-313-7502



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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Michael Martirano](#)
Cc: [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#)
Subject: [External] Options chart and recommendation
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 5:37:47 PM
Attachments: [Quarantine options for schools FINAL.pptx](#)

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Martirano,

In preparation for today's discussion with the Deputy Secretary, Dr. Russo and I prepared the following PP on the modified quarantine options. In the slides you can read the pros/cons/risks and any data regarding the options. We also reviewed school data from Harford County and Carroll County, two school systems that currently have a modified quarantine option. Both jurisdictions have much higher school case rates and quarantine rates than Howard, see below. Let's not mess with what's working. We recommend staying the course with our current recommendations and concentrate on getting our kids vaccinated.

Thanks,
Maura

Harford

School data from 10/20-10/27:

Student cases 36.0/100,000 (average per day)

Students quarantined 116.1/100,000 (average per day)

3.2 quarantined students per case (using totals for the week)

General county stats:

On 10/20/2021 positivity rate 5.4%, case rate 18.79/100,000

As of 10/28/2021 Fully vaccinated 59.8%

Carroll

School data from 10/20-10/27:

Student cases 77.5/100,000 (average per day)

Students quarantined 236.6/100,000 (average per day)

21.4 quarantined students per case (using totals for the week)

General county stats:

On 10/20/2021 positivity rate 4.26%, case rate 10.35/100,000

As of 10/28/2021 Fully vaccinated 64.5%

Howard

School data from 10/20-10/27

Student cases 12.9/100,000 (average per day)

Students quarantined 95.3/100,000 (average per day)

7.4 quarantined students per case (using totals for the week)

General county stats:

On 10/20/2021 positivity rate 1.99%, case rate 6.1/100,000
As of 10/28/2021 Fully vaccinated 73.2%

Maura J. Rossman, MD
Health Officer
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia MD 21045
410 313-6363

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Michael Martirano](#)
Cc: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Subject: [External] School-Based Clinic Resource Assessment Survey
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 7:49:18 AM

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Dr. M,

I received the below email and survey from Deputy Secretary Chan, (due October 18).

Upon review, the survey is best completed by HCPSS in regard to preparations for vaccination of students 5-11 in schools.

I am cc'ing Kerrie as I assume she is the best person to complete this, but emailing you for that decision. I have discussed with Kerrie the recommendation to plan for a variety of situations with the assumption of vaccine authorized around Halloween.

1. Ample supply to meet initial surge. Do we close schools to vaccinate students?
2. Limited supply. Do we prioritize certain groups?
3. On going effort after initial surge.
4. Coordinated communication plan will be key.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,
Maura

Health Officers,

Please see the survey link below on behalf of Dr. Jinlene Chan. This is a survey to assess school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinic planning for 5-11 year olds and resource needs.

This is in follow up to the call with Superintendents and Health Officers on Friday, October 8. We would like to have the surveys returned by Tuesday, October 19.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeapjrPzLIPU9FwG6-Wujyl3Zh7JVICwTHE33z_TSpcidPJ7w/viewform

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Shannon Blount](#)
Cc: [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Hobson, Sharon](#); [Rebecca Sutula](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Lynn, Katherine](#); [Corvoisier, Natalie](#); [Hofmann, Kristina](#); [Maureen Mehrrens](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Fwd: An Important Update from HCPS re: COVID-19 Practices and Operations
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 6:30:44 PM

Hi Shannon,
I conferred with the HO of Harford County. He does not endorse these recommendations.
Thanks,
Maura

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 29, 2021, at 3:32 PM, Shannon Blount <shannon_blount@hcpss.org> wrote:

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Dr. Rossman,
The part that is different is that they are no longer quarantining close contacts if they are wearing masks.

Shannon

*Shannon Blount, MS, RN, CRNP
Specialist, Health Services
Program Innovation and Student Well Being
Howard County Public School System
10920 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-7340*

Wear a mask...six feet apart...take care of each other...get vaxxed!
Covid vaccines available in Howard County:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine#health-department-vaccination-clinics>

From: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Cc: Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Rebecca Sutula <Rebecca_Sutula@hcpss.org>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Shannon Blount <Shannon_Blount@hcpss.org>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>; Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Maureen Mehrrens <Maureen_Mehrrens@hcpss.org>

Subject: RE: [External] Fwd: An Important Update from HCPS re: COVID-19 Practices and Operations

Hi Kerrie,

Thank you for sharing this is consistent with what we have been recommending and is consistent with MDH guidance. We also have discussed the 7 day shortened quarantine with testing.

Best,
Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:08 PM


To: Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>; Maureen Mehrstens <Maureen_Mehrtens@hcpss.org>; Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Shannon Blount <shannon_blount@hcpss.org>; Rebecca Sutula <rebecca_sutula@hcpss.org>

Subject: Fwd: [External] Fwd: An Important Update from HCPS re: COVID-19 Practices and Operations

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

This was sent from an HCPSS staff member with kids in Harford County.

Kerrie Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
Director of Health Services
Department of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being
Division of Academics
Howard County Public Schools System
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[\(410\)313.6812](tel:(410)313.6812)


[\(410\)313.6780](tel:(410)313.6780) FAX
Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: HARFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
<email@blackboard.com>
Date: September 28, 2021 at 5:48:24 PM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: An Important Update from HCPS re: COVID-19 Practices and Operations
Reply-To: email@blackboard.com



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your efforts to keep our community healthy by monitoring your student(s) for symptoms of COVID-19 and complying with universal masking. This letter is to inform you of changes to how Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) will respond to COVID-19. These changes will begin today, Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

Starting today, the quarantine period will be reduced from fourteen days to ten days. We will also modify our student-to-student contact tracing; we will only identify student close contacts in situations where students are unmasked. Contact tracing investigations that involve contact with any staff members will remain unchanged. Students currently in quarantine were identified during higher transmission of COVID-19 so they will continue to quarantine, but they may return to school once 10 days have passed since their last exposure to a person with COVID-19.

Parents will be alerted via letter by school administration if their student is affected by a classroom or school outbreak. A hard copy of the letter may be sent home with the affected student and/or distributed via email. Outbreaks are determined by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), as defined here:

Classroom/cohort outbreak:

- **Two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff with onsets (or, if asymptomatic, collection dates) within a 14-day period, and who are epidemiologically linked, but not household contacts.**

School outbreak:

- **Three or more classrooms with cases from separate households that meet the classroom/cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days, OR**
- **5% or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14-day period (minimum of 10 unrelated students/teachers/staff).**

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is watching the experience our greater Harford County community has with COVID-19, modifying protocols when appropriate, focusing on essential activities to a student's learning, and creating unique safety plans for higher risk activities, such as dances. As such, starting November 15, 2021, HCPS will begin an after-school testing program for high school winter sports and fine arts. Students impacted by this program, which includes an opt-out for vaccinated students, will receive more details next month.

Please continue to monitor yourself and your student(s) for signs of illness, including a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, new onset of severe headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell. If you notice symptoms, please stay home and consult with your health care provider. In addition, please continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by always maintaining maximum physical distance from others, wearing a face covering when you are out of your home, and washing your hands regularly. If you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, please speak with your health care provider about being vaccinated.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community healthy.

Sincerely,

Sean Bulson, Ed. D.

Superintendent

Harford County Public Schools

File attachments:

[HCPS Operations as of September 28 2021 \(below 5% positivity\).pdf](#)

This e-mail has been sent to you by HARFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT. To maximize their communication with you, you may be receiving this e-mail in addition to a phone call with the same message. If you no longer wish to receive email notifications from HARFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

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From: [Russo, Kelly](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Rossman, Maura](#)
Subject: [External] HCHD COVID-19 Toolkit, CT Manual and COVID-19 Line List
Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 8:41:11 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-5b4tgpam.png](#)
[HCHD COVID-19 Toolkit Schools 9.17.2021.pdf](#)
[HCHD COVID-19 CI CT OB Manual PDF.pdf](#)
[COVID-19 Line List.xlsx](#)

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Hi Kerrie,

I thought this morning's meeting was informative and productive. Attached you will find the following documents referenced today during our meeting.

1. HCHD COVID-19 Toolkit
 - Contains important reporting information, exclusion/return decision aid, isolation/quarantine duration tracker, resource list
2. HCHD Case, Contact and Outbreak Investigation Manual
 - Describes the process of what our CT team does, provides job actions sheets, orientation information
3. COVID-19 Line List (Excel spreadsheet)
 - MDH requirement, they can upload into their database

The COVID-19 Line List has been streamlined, and MDH is requiring us to send it for data collection purposes. Information on this form is what drives the data seen on the MDH website, so it's essential that the information is complete and correct. It can be integrated into your google document system (if that's your preference) and can be downloaded and saved, then emailed to our staff. It's a great way for staff to uniformly keep track of the outbreaks and would replace the SMIL form report currently sent to our staff.

I hope most of this CT work can be transferred over to an admin person, your staff have important nursing work to do! Non-nursing staff can be identified to gather the contact information, provide it to the health department and call parents/guardians. When they reach the parent/guardian, the conversation should be limited to their child needs to be quarantined and the health department will be in touch regarding duration of quarantine and next steps.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns, or if another call would be helpful.

Have a great weekend!

Kelly

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd
Columbia, MD 21045
Email: krusso@howardcountymd.gov
Phone: 410-313-7226
Fax: 410-313-7502



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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Russo, Kelly](#); [Marrazzo, Ilise](#); [Painter, Lenora](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#)
Subject: [External] updated recommendations
Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 11:23:53 AM
Attachments: [Managing COVID Response in Schoolsfinal_0917.1.docx](#)

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Kerrie,

I updated the recommendations documented shared this morning. Changes reflect Dr. M's request for data points, (see data section), and a bullet added to vaccination section, (grant award recipients to assist efforts).

We will get you the toolkit by COB.

Thanks,

Maura

Maura J. Rossman, MD
Health Officer
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia MD 21045
410 313-6363

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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Jahantab Siddiqui](#); [Brianna Hartley](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#); [Marrazzo, Ilise](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Painter, Lenora](#); [Kerrie Wagaman](#); [Michael Martirano](#)
Subject: [External] RE: HCPSS/HCHD
Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 8:38:36 AM
Attachments: [Managing COVID Response in Schoolsfinal_0917.docx](#)

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Apologies for the late notice but please find attached a document to assist with the discussion. We can talk through these recommendations during the meeting.

Thank you,

Maura

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Hopkins, Kandyce **On Behalf Of** Rossman, Maura

Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:21 AM

To: Rossman, Maura; Jahantab Siddiqui; Brianna Hartley; Vickery, Antigone; Marrazzo, Ilise; Russo, Kelly; Painter, Lenora; Kerrie Wagaman; Michael Martirano

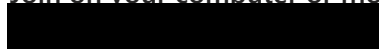
Subject: HCPSS/HCHD

When: Friday, September 17, 2021 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app



From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Hofmann, Kristina](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Hobson, Sharon](#); [Lynn, Katherine](#); [Corvoisier, Natalie](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Fw: Updates to UMB Face Covering/Mask Policy and Food at Events
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 11:49:54 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kerrie,

I concur with everything Dr Russo has stated. One additional point, the recommendation for use of K95's on the campus of UMB – a graduate school with medical campus should not be assumed applicable to K-12 educational settings. The risks and populations are completely different. Ms. Mallo should not conflate the two.

Best,
Maura

From: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Kerrie Wagaman <kerrie_wagaman@hcpss.org>; Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>; Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Fw: Updates to UMB Face Covering/Mask Policy and Food at Events

Hi Kerrie,

It's an interesting policy change for UMB. As you know, the current guidance calls for masking, but does not make quarantine exceptions for the different types of masks.

In an ideal world (i.e. wearing them consistently and correctly), here is the hierarchy of respiratory protection for masks: N95>KN95>surgical facemask>cloth face covering.

But in the real world, that hierarchy is disrupted. Unfortunately, the N95/KN95 masks are extremely difficult to wear, and they have a lot of drawbacks. Breathing is more difficult, they are tight on the face, the straps need to be worn appropriately, speech is affected (muffled), young children tend to be mouth breathers (mask becomes moist) and most people do not tolerate them for long periods of time. These masks are not designed for use in children, their faces are so varied at different ages, and there are not as many sizes or types available as there are in adults. In addition, people should be tested to assure the mask fits their face to ensure the maximum amount of protection. In healthcare settings, unless a person is fit tested for a specific mask they are wearing, they are considered as effective as surgical facemasks. The FDA regulations around current masks do not include those for children as far as I'm aware, and I haven't seen any data supporting their use in this population.

In addition, one major concern is the staff and children would be constantly pulling the mask up, down and all around to alleviate discomfort. Then, they are left with no/decreased respiratory

protection while doing that and the mask becomes ill-fitting due to the frequent manipulation.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I wear them when I work with tuberculosis patients, and I can't wait to remove them by the end of the 30-minute visit!

This is a statement I like to give: **The mask a child will wear is the best mask.**

Currently there are no recommendations from any medical professional organization or public health agency recommending the use of N95/KN95 masks in the school setting. For the reasons I outlined above, I highly doubt we would ever change quarantine requirements even if they were used in schools. With all of that said, we all know guidance changes daily and if we hear of anything under discussion, we'll let you know.

Best,

Kelly

Kelly Russo, MD, MPH
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From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:51 AM
To: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>; Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>; Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Hofmann, Kristina <khofmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Lynn, Katherine <klynn@howardcountymd.gov>; Corvoisier, Natalie <ncorvoisier@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fw: [External] Fw: Updates to UMB Face Covering/Mask Policy and Food at Events

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Any thoughts to this? Do you know if there will be a change to the quarantine requirements for distance if we use these?

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From: Jennifer Mallo <Jennifer_Mallo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Michael Martirano <Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org>; Karalee Turner-Little <Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org>; Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>
Subject: FW: [External] Fw: Updates to UMB Face Covering/Mask Policy and Food at Events

Dr. M,

Please consider upgrading our PPE to KN95s for students and staff. Please see the second paragraph below (from my other employer).

Jen



Sept. 9, 2021

Dear UMB Community:

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce E. Jarrell's [Sept. 2 letter](#) shared that there would be an update this week about safety measures at UMB related to COVID-19. After consideration by the Recovery Task Force's University Health focus area group, changes to policies regarding face coverings/masks as well as food and drink at indoor events are outlined below.

Face Covering/Mask Policy Change

To increase safety on campus, UMB is moving to require or encourage the use of KN95 masks, instead of surgical or cloth face coverings, as outlined below, in nonclinical settings (clinical settings maintain separate requirements). A KN95 mask is designed to reduce the amount of dust or virus a person breathes in by approximately 95 percent.

A KN95 provides better protection for the wearer than a cloth mask while also reducing the spread of the virus from the wearer. Importantly, a person wearing a KN95 who had a recent close contact with a person who tested positive with COVID-19 is less likely to develop COVID-19. As such, **KN95s generally reduce or eliminate self-isolation or quarantine requirements, which is particularly important in classroom environments with students sitting in a communal setting for long periods of time.** This is another measure to ensure that we are keeping ourselves and our UMB community safe, while minimizing interruptions to education and work. We will re-evaluate the KN95 requirement in the coming months.

UMB will provide an initial KN95 mask to each person through each school/unit. Your school/unit will provide direction on how to receive your KN95, but please feel free to provide your own. They are readily available online and in many local retailers. KN95s, while disposable, are designed to be worn multiple times safely.

When should I wear a KN95? The UMB Policy Requiring Use of Face Coverings outlines when a person is required to wear a face covering at UMB. The policy specifically requires or recommends a KN95 as follows:

- KN95s are the only permitted face covering for unvaccinated faculty, staff, and students – whether they have a valid exemption or not. As such, starting Sept. 15, unvaccinated employees and students must wear a KN95 when required to wear a face covering under the [UMB Policy Requiring Use of Face Coverings](#).
- At some point in the near future, KN95s will be required for fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff when participating in classroom and training activities. Fully vaccinated faculty or staff delivering in-person lectures or presentations may remove their KN95 while speaking as long as at least 6 feet of physical distance can be maintained between the faculty member or presenter and the students or audience. Faculty or staff who are not vaccinated must wear a KN95 while presenting. The date of this requirement will depend on the availability and distribution of KN95s across campus and will be communicated as soon as that date is known.
- Starting immediately, KN95s are strongly recommended for fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff when participating in group activities where 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained or more than five people are present.

UMB COVID-19 Guidance on Events, Eating, and Drinking

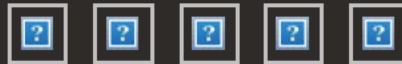
As of Sept. 20, 2021, UMB indoor events may not provide food that is intended to be eaten at the event – only grab-and-go food and beverages will be permitted. This will minimize the need to remove masks while in group settings and thereby reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 on campus.

What other actions should I take?

To protect yourself and others, you should:

- Get the COVID-19 vaccine if you have not already done so. The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your family, friends, classmates, and co-workers from COVID-19.
- Stay home if you are sick or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Call the UMB COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-701-9863 if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Practice physical distancing when feasible.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

company_name



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From: [Rossman, Maura](#)
To: [Kerrie Wagaman](#)
Cc: [Hobson, Sharon](#); [Russo, Kelly](#); [Vickery, Antigone](#)
Subject: [External] COVID Testing in Schools
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 2:18:23 PM
Attachments: [Covid memo schools.docx](#)

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Kerrie,

See attached memo in response to your question about HCHD's advice regarding COVID testing programs in schools. Please share as you deem appropriate with the Superintendent and BOE.

Thank you,

Maura

Maura J. Rossman, MD
Health Officer
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia MD 21045
410 313-6363

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From: Rossman, Maura
To: Kerrie Wagaman
Cc: Russo, Kelly; Hobson, Sharon; DeHernandez, Lisa
Subject: RE: [External] Screening of students guidance
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 9:27:29 AM

Kerrie,
 Sharing nice FAQ's just released from the CDC. You may want to share with your PIO. cc'ing Lisa as well.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-faqs.html>
 Thanks,
 Maura

From: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 9:04 AM
To: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Screening of students guidance

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I will inform the superintendent.

Kerrie L. Wagaman RN, MSN, BSN, NCSN
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From: Rossman, Maura <mrossman@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Kerrie Wagaman <Kerrie_Wagaman@hcpss.org>
Cc: Russo, Kelly <krusso@howardcountymd.gov>; Hobson, Sharon <shobson@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: [External] Screening of students guidance

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Kerrie,
 We have had more internal discussion regarding screening of students in schools. HCHD is now recommending screening of unvaccinated students and all athletes per CDC Guidance. Other schools systems are following suit as well.
 Best,
 Maura

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Table 1 Screening Testing Recommendations for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission

	Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Students	Do not need to screen students.	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
Teachers and staff	Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			
High risk sports and activities	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports ² and extracurricular activities ³ at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.
Low- and intermediate-risk sports	Do not need to screen students participating in low-	Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		

and intermediate-risk sports.2

Maura J. Rossman, MD
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