

November 18, 2020

Good evening, WISD families,

First, thank you all for your continued patience, support and understanding as we continue to monitor the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape. Earlier this week, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued an epidemic order that required high schools across the state to shift to fully virtual instruction. The order, however, encouraged the continuity of in-person instruction for PreK-8th grade, special education, and ELL students if a local district and their health department felt this was safe.

Given the prevalent spread of COVID-19 in our community, we have made the following updates to our WISD programs and offices for the health and safety of our community:

WISD Student Programs

All WISD student programs and services will be **fully remote beginning on Monday, November 23 through December 11, 2020**. This includes High Point, Progress Park, Red Oak, Young Adult Program and Project, Local-Based Classrooms, DHH Classrooms, EI Continuum Classrooms, and the Washtenaw County Complex educational team serving youth and young adults.

WISD Early Childhood Programs

WISD's Early Intervention and Early Head Start services will continue to remain remote at this time. WISD's support for Head Start and Great Start Readiness Program classrooms will continue. Because MDHHS is encouraging in-person instruction for PreK-8 when it is possible, some Head Start and GSRP classes may be in-person while others are remote depending on the local district's plan. Please check with your local district or community provider on their plans for in-person or remote instruction.

Contacting Our WISD Team

Our WISD staff will primarily work from home over the coming weeks. Please continue contacting us by email or by calling our office phone number and leaving a voicemail. Our voicemails are being forwarded to our email, so staff shall receive your message. You can also reach out to us anytime using our [Let's Talk](#) portal.

Future Review and Decision-Making Process

WISD administration, along with program supervisors, the Instructional Governance Committee consisting of program staff, and our Board of Education will review [our community COVID metrics](#) and [other key decision points](#) on December 7-8. We expect to announce an update on or around December 9, 2020.

If our community sees a consistent decrease in community spread over the coming weeks, then our earliest return date for some in-person instruction or services would be Monday, December 14, 2020. However, *should COVID-19 continue to spread at its current rate or at an increased rate, it is possible that remote instruction could last through December and into early January 2021.*



We truly want to be able to see all of our students, families and staff in-person as soon as possible. We miss each of you. **We strongly encourage everyone in our WISD community - students, families, and staff - to be diligent in taking the steps necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 at home, school, work, and in the community.** This virus continues to circulate locally and risk of exposure is present whenever you are out in public or having any direct contact with others. To reduce the spread of illness, the Washtenaw County Health Department recommends wearing a face covering, maintaining 6 feet distance from others not in your household, washing your hands frequently, and avoiding others if you have any symptoms. These prevention strategies are most effective when combined.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your program supervisor or send us a message in [Let's Talk](#).

Take good care.

Naomi Norman
Interim Superintendent

COVID-19

What You Need to Know



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a virus that can lead to illnesses ranging from the common cold to severe respiratory disease.

What are the symptoms?

People with COVID-19 may have different symptoms. Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle aches
- Severe tiredness
- Chills
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Runny nose or sore throat

Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

How is it spread?

Health experts are still learning about how COVID-19 spreads. The virus is spread easily between people through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

How is it treated?

There is no vaccine yet or specific treatment recommended for COVID-19. People diagnosed with COVID-19 can seek medical care to relieve symptoms.

Information as of 9/28/2020

Find the latest information at Washtenaw.org/health, Michigan.gov/Coronavirus, and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

How is it prevented?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. **Everyone should practice these good prevention strategies:**

- When outside of your home, practice social/physical distance by staying at least 6 feet away from others.
- Wear a face covering when out in public.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you don't have soap and water.
- Avoid touching your face and mouth.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid others. Only go out if you need to get medical care.
- Avoid being in small indoor rooms with poor airflow with non-household members. Being outdoors in an open space is safer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home as much as possible.

What should I do if I am sick?

If you are feeling sick with any symptoms of COVID-19, follow these steps to avoid spreading the virus:

- Stay home, except to get medical care
- Stay away from people and pets in your home
- Manage symptoms with fever-reducing medicine. Stay hydrated and eat when you can.

Call a doctor if you have:

- Fever that doesn't come down with medication
- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours or any bloody diarrhea
- Shortness of breath
- Symptoms that keep getting worse or feel unmanageable

Call the emergency room or 9-1-1 if you have:

- Difficulty breathing/inability to catch your breath
- Chest pain
- Feeling faint/light-headed or unstable in any way

What is a close contact?

A close contact is anyone you have had face-to-face contact with at less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or more.

When should I quarantine or isolate?

You should self-quarantine if:

- Someone in your household or your close contact has symptoms of COVID-19

Self-quarantining means you should:

- Stay home at all times and monitor your symptoms for 14 days (only leave your home if you need medical attention). Even if you get tested for COVID-19 and your test comes back negative, you should still self-quarantine for the 14 days since your last exposure to a positive case.
- Social distance from other people in your home.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate.

You should self-isolate if:

- You have symptoms of COVID-19 **BUT**
- You aren't sick enough to go to the hospital

Self-isolating means you should:

- Stay home at all times and stay in a separate room from other people in your home.
- Use a separate bathroom from other people in your home, if possible. Keep toothbrushes separate if you must use the same bathroom.
- Avoid contact with the other people in your home.
- Have the other people in your home self-quarantine.
- Wear a mask if you go into shared spaces in your home.

Learn more about quarantine and isolation here:

<http://bit.ly/isoandquar>

What is contact tracing? Why is it important?

Contact tracing helps contain outbreaks by quickly alerting people who may have been exposed to COVID-19, so they don't spread the virus to others. If the health department or the MI COVID HELP line calls you, please pick up or call back as soon as you can!

Learn more about contact tracing:

<http://bit.ly/COVIDtrace>

Who can I contact for COVID-19 related concerns?

The following webpage contains detailed information about how to report COVID-19 cases or concerns:

<http://bit.ly/COVIDcontact>

Information as of 9/28/2020

Find the latest information at Washtenaw.org/health, Michigan.gov/Coronavirus, and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

This fact sheet is in for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, contact your health care provider or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

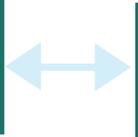
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COVID-19: REDUCE YOUR RISK

The more low-risk choices you make, the more protection you have from getting or spreading COVID-19.

SAFEST ————— **RISKIEST**

Face Covering		Everyone is wearing a mask or face covering	Most wearing masks	Some wearing masks	None wearing masks
Social Distance		Not engaging in any activity in person; virtual only	Staying 6 feet or more from others	Staying under 6 feet from others	Standing face to face, hugging, shaking hands
Droplet Spread		Breathing normally	Speaking or breathing heavily	Shouting, yelling or singing	Coughing or sneezing
Location		Outdoors in an open space	Staying under a shelter (gazebo, covered porch) outdoors	Large, indoor rooms with good air flow	Small, indoor rooms with poor air flow
Food		Only bringing and touching your own food	Serving pre-portioned food, using good hand hygiene	Family style, but using your own serving utensils	Sharing plates, utensils, and cups
Groups		Only household members	Small groups (two households, under 10 people)	Large groups over 10 people	Large gatherings with people from different geographic areas

EXAMPLES

SAFEST ————— **SAFER, SOME RISK** ————— **RISKIEST**



Staying home with only people you live with



Small outdoor gathering, keeping at least 6 feet apart



Singing with a large choir in a small room

ALWAYS REMEMBER



Washing hands well and often reduces risk in all situations. If you don't have soap and water, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Stay home if you're feeling any mild symptoms, except to get medical care.

COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents or Guardians

I've heard the words isolation and quarantine. What is the difference and how do I know what to do?

- **Quarantine:** When a person who was a close contact of someone who is sick, or has tested positive for COVID-19, stays home for a full 14 days and watches for symptoms to see if they will become sick.
- **Isolation:** When a person that is sick stays home and away from others to prevent the spread of illness.
 - A person with COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 10 days after starting to feel sick or 10 days after a positive test if they have no symptoms. Isolation should only end when a person's symptoms are improving (from their worst) and when they have gone 24 hours without vomiting, diarrhea and without a fever (without taking medicine to stop a fever).
- **Close Contact:** Someone who has
 - had face-to-face contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 cumulative minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19 while they were contagious, with or without masks or protective barriers.
 - possibly come in contact with a sick person's droplets (coughing, sneezing or singing).
 - had direct physical contact with a person who has COVID-19 (hugging, kissing or contact during high-impact sports).
 - shared eating or drinking utensils with a person who has COVID-19.

My child was told to quarantine. What does this mean?

This means that your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and your child should be watched at home to see if they become sick.

- Keep your child at home unless they need to see a doctor or there is an emergency like a fire or flood.
- Track your child's health. Make note of any symptoms your child starts to have on a calendar.
- Try to keep household members as separate as possible. Use masks inside and keep at least 6ft. distance when possible.
- When one person in a household is in quarantine, the other household members can still go to school or work. If they did not have close contact with the sick person, they are not considered at risk of getting the virus (unless the person in quarantine becomes sick).

What symptoms should I watch my child for?

People with COVID-19 may have different symptoms. **Some people may have very mild symptoms or show no symptoms at all.**

Common symptoms of COVID-19 could include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of smell or taste
- Fever
- Chills
- Body or Muscle Aches
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Severe Tiredness or Fatigue



My child has started to show symptoms of COVID-19. What now?

- When children get sick, it's important to keep them safe. Let their doctor know they are having symptoms of COVID-19 in case you need to call them later, but do not take them in without calling ahead.
- Your child should now be isolated (kept away) from other household members as much as possible. See the red box below for details.
- Other household members should now practice quarantine measures, so they should stop going to work or school and start tracking their symptoms on a calendar.

COVID-19 Testing

My child has no symptoms. Should they get tested?

Testing is recommended, but not required. Ask your doctor or testing site for a non-rapid nasal or saliva molecular (PCR) test for the most reliable results. The best time to be tested is between 7-10 days after exposure to COVID-19. *If your child begins to show symptoms, they should get tested.*

My child tested negative. Can they end quarantine early?

No. You cannot test out of quarantine. Symptoms can start anywhere between 2 and 14 days after exposure to COVID-19. To be safe, your child needs to quarantine for a full 14 days after their last contact with the person who is sick, because symptoms may start later.

My child is young and needs me to take care of them, how do we stay safe?

- Not every family has the space or ability to separate from one another. See our red box below on how to be as safe as possible if someone in your home is sick.

My doctor said that my child does not need to quarantine.

- If your child is a close contact of a person who has COVID-19, it is required for them to stay home and quarantine for 14 days in case they become sick.

What if I can't take time off work to stay home with my child?

- The Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) can provide you with a letter to give to your employer. If you are not able to work because someone you are caring for has to quarantine because of COVID-19, you may be able to get paid sick leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act Paid Sick Leave Program.

What do I do if my child tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19?

A COVID-19 positive child must isolate at home and away from others. This means:

- **Stay home** from school or work
- Sleep in a room by themselves and, if possible, use a separate bathroom
- Stay 6 feet away from household members whenever possible
- Wear a mask when sharing common spaces with other household members
- Do not have physical contact with household members (hugs, kisses, playing together) and must not share eating utensils or cups/bottles
- Do not leave the home except if they need medical care or in case of an emergency, and should always wear a fabric mask or cloth covering the nose and mouth if leaving the home

Parents or guardians of a COVID-19 positive child should:

- Wipe down all frequently touched surfaces with a disinfectant spray or cleaner
- Keep track of symptoms daily (on a piece of paper or calendar) and note when they start or stop
- Have all close contacts or household members **stay home** from work or school and quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure and keep track of any new symptoms that develop

A WCHD Case Investigator may not reach out to you right away. Please follow these instructions until you are contacted by the health department.