

# KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## STATE OF MICHIGAN KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

August 6, 2021

In the Matter of COVID-19 Prevention in Educational Settings within Kent County, Michigan:

**The Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Department of Public Health makes the following factual determinations and issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as R. 325.175(4), which is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d). Factual findings include:**

1. The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person-to-person, primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person or carrier coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can enter the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely to occur when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
2. Recent data show that the newly dominant delta variant may induce a viral load 1,000 times higher than the original virus, indicating that the delta variant may be much more infectious than previous strains.
3. Although vaccinations prevent infection, slow community transmission, and reduce the risk of severe outcomes due to COVID-19 disease, COVID-19 remains a public health issue that impacts local institutions, particularly in educational settings where students younger than 12 years of age are ineligible to receive vaccination. Among Kent County youth aged 12-19 years, only approximately one-third are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of August 3, 2021, leaving a large majority potentially vulnerable to COVID-19 disease.
4. People infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 are contagious and a risk to others. Isolating infectious persons for at least 10 days is essential for preventing COVID-19 transmission.

5. Household transmission of COVID-19 is common, with studies finding that average transmission rates were as high as 53%. Because risk of transmission is high among households, household members who are not sick but have been exposed to COVID-19 pose a higher risk to the community if they return to public activities before a quarantine period has been completed.
6. When layered prevention strategies are applied consistently, school-associated transmission of COVID-19 is reduced.

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

1. All persons identified as a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case are required to isolate for at least 10 days, as described in guidelines established by the CDC.
2. Household close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases are required to quarantine as described in guidelines established by the CDC. Although all three quarantine options provided by the CDC may be used as determined by the local health department, this local health department advises at least a 10-day quarantine for all close contacts of COVID-19 cases and may require alternative quarantine lengths for close contacts of select variant cases.
3. All Persons in Educational Settings in Close Contact with a COVID-19 case involved in an Outbreak are required to quarantine as described in guidelines established by the CDC. Although any of the three quarantine options provided by the CDC may be used as determined by the local health department, this local health department advises at least a 10-day quarantine for all close contacts of COVID-19 cases and may require alternative quarantine lengths for close contacts of select variant cases.
4. Within 1 business day, K-12 schools must provide to local public health the names, dates of birth, addresses, phone numbers, roles, and school group affiliations of all individuals identified as close contacts in an educational setting, regardless of vaccination status. Youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, preschools, vocational schools, colleges, and universities must provide this information upon request. Additional information about close contacts may be requested for effective contact tracing and notification and must be provided.
5. Schools must provide public notice to the school community in a highly visible location on the school's website that outlines the school's COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2021-2022 school year by completing the COVID-19 Prevention Strategy for Schools Form. Public notice must be published no later than August 27, 2021. The school must notify the school community and KCHD of any subsequent changes in the school's COVID-19 prevention strategies by indicating revision date and revision history in the COVID-19 Prevention Strategy for Schools Form.

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

- a. “COVID-19 case” is defined by the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Executive Board and referenced in the Michigan State and Local Public Health Standard Operating Procedures. For the purposes of this order, a person must meet the confirmed or probable case definition as defined by CSTE and be documented in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System as a COVID-19 case. The current CSTE definition can be found at the following link:

<https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/case-definitions/coronavirus-disease-2019-2020-08-05/>

- b. “Close contact” means being within 6 feet of someone who is a COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. “Close contact” also means engaging in sport activities with unavoidable frequent physical contact for a total time less than 15 minutes with someone who is identified as a COVID-19 case. In the K-12 indoor classroom setting only, an exception to the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where
- Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks, and
  - Other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting.

This exception in K-12 schools does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

- c. “Educational Institutions” or “Educational Settings” includes youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, preschools, primary through secondary schools, vocational schools, colleges, and universities and other organized activities outside the home where coursework is taught. This definition includes educationally affiliated extracurricular activities such as school athletics.
- d. “Fully vaccinated persons” means persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- e. “Household close contact” means a close contact that lives with a COVID-19 case in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, households are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.
- f. “Isolation” means separating people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others. At home anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).

- g. “Outbreak” in an educational setting is generally defined by the CSTE and referenced in the Michigan State and Local Public Health Standard Operating Procedures. The CSTE definition can be found at the following link:

<https://preparedness.cste.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Educational-Outbreak-Definition.pdf>

Outbreak case definitions are further refined in the MDHHS Standard Operating Procedures, where confirmed and probable cases are considered outbreak-associated cases. MDHHS standard operating procedures can be found at the following link:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/nCoV\\_SOP\\_TEAM\\_680994\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/nCoV_SOP_TEAM_680994_7.pdf)

- h. “Persons in Educational Settings” means students, teachers, administrative staff, attendees, volunteers, coaches, camp leaders, and other employees or volunteers of Educational Institutions.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this ORDER shall not apply to the following Persons:**

1. Persons without symptoms who were a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the past 90 days and recovered.
2. Fully vaccinated persons without symptoms who are not currently in isolation as COVID-19 cases.

**IT IS FURTHER REMINDED that:**

1. On January 29, 2021, CDC issued an ORDER that required face masks to be worn by all people while on public transportation (which included all passengers and all personnel operating conveyances) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and U.S. territories. The CDC ORDER includes school buses, both public and private.
2. This order does not repeat or supersede current MDHHS or Federal Epidemic Orders, which are incorporated by reference herein.

**THIS ORDER is effective immediately and remains in effect until further order of the health officer.**



**Adam London, Ph.D, R.S., D.A.A.S.  
Administrative Health Officer  
Kent County Department of Public Health**

**Dated: August 6, 2021**