



Providing Quality Services
Building Valued Partnerships



Defiance DD
County Board of Developmental Disabilities
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Recent updates from the Ohio Department of Health has transitioned schools out of universal contact tracing all COVID-19 cases. The quick spread of the Omicron variant has made universal contact tracing, case investigation, and exposure notification difficult when combined with newly reduced timelines for quarantine and isolation. Defiance County schools will continue to track positive cases and partner with the Defiance County Health Department to investigate any outbreaks or clusters of COVID-19 in schools.

While Defiance County schools will no longer be universally contact tracing every case, we feel it is important to continue to provide information to parents regarding COVID-19 circulation within the school setting. Starting 2/1/2022, a chart will be posted on each district's school website and will be updated on a daily basis. This chart will indicate how many COVID-19 positive cases there are in each grade level. Please utilize this tool to stay informed about COVID-19 cases within the school setting and the potential risk of exposure to COVID-19.

We encourage families to follow these steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses:

- Get vaccinated against COVID-19 if eligible and get a booster when able. Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Get tested if you are symptomatic or have had a known exposure to someone who tested positive.
- Stay home if you are sick. Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding gatherings and remaining 6 feet from others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wear a facial covering while in public or around others outside of your household.

Updated "Mask to Stay, Test to Play" guidance now allows students who have been exposed to COVID-19 in any setting the option to wear a mask to stay in school and the option to test on day 1 after exposure in order to participate in extracurricular activities. If your child is a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case, please call the school to discuss the "Mask to Stay, Test to Play" option.

As always, this plan is subject to change.

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