

Marion City Schools COVID-19 2021-2022 Protocols

Updated as of 8/2/21

Marion City Schools will continue to follow regulations and guidance from the Marion Public Health Department and the CDC regarding COVID-19.

As schools get ready for the 2021-22 academic year, the ongoing health and safety of students, staff, and volunteers remains paramount. While great strides have been made in controlling the spread of COVID-19, the virus remains a health threat.

Our goal is to keep students back in school, in-person, five days a week. With the recent uptick in confirmed cases as well as the new Delta Variant we have to remain diligent. While this information is ever changing, we will continue to follow the CDC's guidance and work with Marion Public Health to monitor the levels of community transmission. We will keep families updated with any and all changes to these policies throughout the school year.

Vaccination

Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely conduct in-person learning and allow safe participation in extracurricular activities and sports. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. Currently, Ohioans age 12 years and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

Masking

COVID-19 is an airborne respiratory virus. Wearing masks has been proven to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets that are created when people talk, laugh, sing, cough and sneeze. Last school year, Ohio researchers conducted an evaluation of interventions implemented in

schools to help slow the spread of the virus including wearing masks and distancing. Their research found that wearing masks combined with distancing was effective in slowing the spread of the virus. We had hoped to not require masks for this upcoming year, but given the recent recommendations by the CDC, Ohio Department of Health and Marion Public Health, beginning August 9th, **all staff and students K-12 will now be required to wear masks in school and on the bus.**

Social Distancing

CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. Marion City Schools will stress social distancing wherever possible without compromising the integrity of instruction.

Isolation/Quarantine

Contact tracing will continue by reporting new diagnoses of COVID-19 to Marion Public Health as soon as they are discovered. School officials will notify, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, teachers, staff, and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible after they are notified that someone in the school has tested positive.

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as [influenza](#) (flu) or [COVID-19](#), should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.

For more information on

COVID-19 and CDC recommended guidelines:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

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

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

<https://covid19.marionpublichealth.org/schools/>