

Marion City Schools COVID-19 2021-2022 Protocols

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

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 ages 5 years and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Individuals do not need a booster shot to be considered fully vaccinated.

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. **Marion City Schools requires that staff and students K-12 wear masks in school. Students are also required to wear a mask when on a school bus, per the Ohio department of Health Order.**

[Mask Exemption Form](#)

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 a positive test. Identified close contacts **without symptoms** will be able to choose to quarantine for 5 days from the last contact with the person who tested positive **or** stay in school and mask at all times, **including outdoors**, for 10 days. Quarantined students can return after 5 days if there are no symptoms present and wear a mask at all times for days 6-10.

Test to Play

Asymptomatic contacts in a school environment may continue to participate in extracurricular activities if they:

- Wear a mask when able. This includes wearing a mask during transportation, such as traveling on a team bus to and from games;

while in locker rooms; while sitting or standing on the sidelines; and any time the mask will not interfere with breathing, the activity in which they are participating, or create a safety hazard.

- Test on initial notification of exposure to COVID-19.
- Test again on day 5 following exposure to COVID-19. If they are negative at this time, they will test out of quarantine and can resume normal activities.

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.