



COVID-19 Technical Assistance for Schools

January 6, 2022

Webinar housekeeping

- All participants will be muted throughout the webinar
- Please type questions into the chat box for the Q & A portion of the webinar
 - Questions should be directed to “everyone” in the chat
- The webinar will be recorded and available as soon as possible at the following link:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/school-resources>



Webinar Agenda

- School Outbreak Update
- K-12 Testing Program Overview/Update
- Isolation and Quarantine Guidance Update
- Q & A

The next webinar will be held on January 20, 2022



School Outbreak Updates

Brian Bachaus, MS
Chief, Division of Outbreak Investigation

Previous Definition

Cohort outbreak:

- At least two confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff within a 14-day period and who are epidemiologically linked, but not household contacts; or

School outbreak:

- Three or more classrooms or cohorts with cases from separate households that meet the classroom/cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days; or
- 5% or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14 day period [minimum of 10 unrelated students/teachers/staff].

Revised Definition (eff. 1/1/2022)

Cohort outbreak:

- **Three** or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff **in a specified group** with onsets (or, if asymptomatic, collection dates) within a 14-day period, and who are epidemiologically linked **in the school setting**, but not household contacts.

School outbreak:

- **Five** or more cohorts with cases from separate households that meet the cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days; OR
- 5% or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14 day period [minimum of 10 unrelated students/teachers/staff].

Additional Notes

- Outbreaks that were opened under the previous definition will remain open until they meet the criteria to close
- Outbreaks that open or reopen after 1/1/2022 will need to meet the new definition
 - Effective date applies to date of report (not onset or collection date)
- The school outbreak dashboard on the MDH website has been updated to reflect these changes



K-12 Testing Program Overview

January 6, 2022

K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program Updates

- **Screening Testing Program**

- Routine testing of individuals without symptoms to identify pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic infections

- **Diagnostic Testing Program**

- Using rapid antigen POC or PCR tests to aid in diagnosing symptomatic individuals or close contacts of COVID-19

All data is as of 1/6. This data is reported by the labs.

K-12 Testing Program - Overview

COVID Tests Conducted
1,043,550

Screening Program
960,525

POC
0
0%

PCR
960,525
100%

Diagnostic Program
82,088

POC
37,212
45.33%

PCR
44,876
54.67%

COVID Tests Conducted - by County, by Test Type (Public and Non Public)

Jurisdiction	PCR Tests	POC Tests	# Positive Tests	Pooled Tests	Positive Pools
	1,845	0	5	0	0
Allegany County	325	135	26	0	0
Anne Arundel County	20,038	7,728	447	0	0
Baltimore City	42,188	2,116	1,538	492,371	1,433
Baltimore County	54,670	7,096	502	0	0
Calvert County	37	11	2	0	0
Caroline County	666	41	23	0	0
Carroll County	1,677	3,117	346	0	0
Cecil County	56	1,550	660	0	0
Charles County	15,277	361	346	0	0
Dorchester County	2,598	0	29	0	0
Frederick County	897	0	0	0	0
Garrett County	979	570	273	0	0
Harford County	5,019	1,557	165	0	0
Howard County	7,554	14	156	0	0
Kent County	27	0	1	0	0
Montgomery County	313,322	159	511	0	6
Prince George's County	32,820	3,882	193	0	0
Queen Anne's County	446	213	31	0	0
Somerset County	566	0	5	0	0
Talbot County	248	0	4	0	0
Washington County	164	138	11	0	0
Wicomico County	850	2,629	198	0	0
Worcester County	2,128	1,641	160	0	0

Screening Program Sign Up

- Students and staff (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) may be tested
- Schools are encouraged to scale up testing, especially when community transmission is high (per CDC recommendation)
- New schools are encouraged to sign up for the screening testing here:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f9f97fff6fce4b638b6dfc3e792f612f>
- Vendor contact information can be found below:
 - 20/20 Gene Systems - Jiming Zhou - jzhou@2020gene.com
 - Capitol Diagnostics - Remi Bhatnagar - rbhatnagar@capitaltox.com
 - CIAN Diagnostics - Sam Mullapudi - Sam@Ciandx.com
 - Concentric by Ginko - Karen Murphy - kmurphy@ginkgobioworks.com
 - MAKO Medical - Ryan Dienst - rdienst@makomedical.com

Increasing Participation in Testing Programs

- **Engage school leaders:** Principals, faculty, school parent council members, coaches, can all be great ambassadors for the program
- **Build community:** share why testing is important to the school and the community
- **Make it easy:** provide consent form/registration link in your school communications to simplify the consent process
- **Follow-up:** Follow-up with families one-on-one to increase participation rates

Need additional communications support? Please let us know!

Diagnostic Test Supply Reordering Process Reminder

- Plan ahead to ensure enough supply for at least 2 weeks
 - We are currently experiencing some delays in distribution
- For Abbott Binax Now POC Testing Supplies, please fill out this form here:
 - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce7099acf617437dbebc585eb4f7d271>
 - All orders received by **Thursday at 3pm** will be added to the distribution list for the following week
 - Email orders do not count as orders, we must receive a form submission
- For PCR test supplies, please reach out to accounts@makomedical.com or through your testing vendor

Additional Programmatic Offerings - Rapid Response

- In addition to routine testing, several of the K-12 testing vendors can deploy rapid response teams to their respective schools/school systems to conduct broader outbreak testing
- Criteria for deployment includes:
 - An outbreak involving two or more cohorts, or many suspected close contacts (e.g., middle/high schools where students change classrooms throughout the day)
 - An outbreak in a school with a low vaccination rate (e.g., involving younger students who aren't eligible for vaccination or low uptake for other reasons)
 - An outbreak with ongoing or uncontrolled transmission
 - When the school is unable to conduct mass testing by its own means
- Please allow at least 72 hours for vendors to plan for testing event

Additional Programmatic Offerings - Non Clinical Staff

- Duties for **Non-Clinical Staffing** for administrative support for screening testing
 - Support the tracking of COVID-19 testing consent forms, rosters, and attendance
 - Support the implementation of the testing schedule
 - Assist with navigation and testing check-in
 - Assist schools with parent communications regarding the testing program
 - Fielding phone calls and emails regarding testing programs
 - Escorting students to and from testing
 - Assist in communicating results, contact tracing, and relaying quarantine/isolation procedures to parents and health department
 - Assist in data entry and tracking related to cases and contacts
- To receive a sign up form, please email mdh.k12.testing@maryland.gov
 - In your request, please specify any fingerprinting/background check requirements and vaccination requirements
 - Once staff is identified, we will communicate with the school system and/or school as indicated to confirm start date
 - Please be sure on site point of contact has access to the check in/check out form to verify time

For any questions, please contact mdh.k12testing@maryland.gov.

MDH/MSDE K-12 School COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Interim Guidance

January 2022

MDH/MSDE K-12 School COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Interim Guidance - January 2022

- Interim guidance temporarily replaces the isolation and quarantine guidance in the [K-12 School and Child Care COVID-19 Guidance](#) document dated October 27, 2021
- Interim guidance aligns with new CDC [Quarantine and Isolation](#) recommendations for the general public - January 4, 2022 (CDC will be releasing updates to K-12 guidance soon)
- Schools may still use the MDH modified quarantine options in the [K-12 School and Child Care COVID-19 Guidance](#) dated October 27, 2021 if they meet all of the requirements that are outlined.

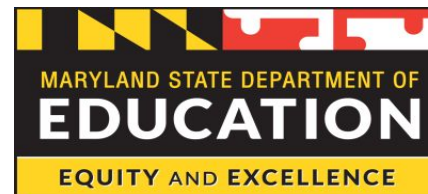


MDH/MSDE K-12 School COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Interim Guidance - January 2022

Persons Who Have Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Isolation)

All persons who test positive for COVID-19 or have suspected COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should complete isolation as follows:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or the date of the positive test if no symptoms
 - Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the first full day after the person tested positive if asymptomatic.
- After Day 5, if the person has no symptoms or if symptoms are improved and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without medication, they may return to school or child care **IF** they wear a well-fitting mask when around others* for an additional 5 days.
- If the person is unable to wear a mask around others, they should remain at home for a full 10 days.



MDH/MSDE K-12 School COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Interim Guidance - January 2022 (cont'd)

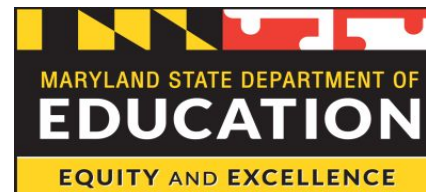
Persons Who Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

1. The following recommendations apply to:

- Adults 18 years and older who have been boosted OR completed the primary series of Pfizer within the last 5 months or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months AND they have no symptoms;
- Children 5-17 years old who have completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine as recommended AND they have no symptoms; and
- Persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (i.e. tested positive using a viral test).

These persons do not need to quarantine after exposure but should:

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others* for 10 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- Get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact (persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to test).
 - If the person tests positive or develops symptoms they should stay home and follow recommendations for isolation.
 - If the person tests negative or is unable to get a test, they should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others* for 10 days after the last close contact.



MDH/MSDE K-12 School COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Interim Guidance - January 2022 (cont'd)

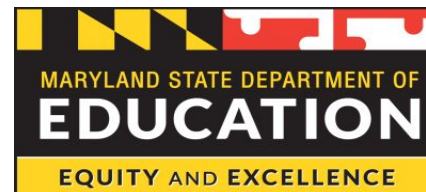
Persons Who Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

2. The following recommendations apply to:

- Persons of all ages who are unvaccinated; and
- Adults 18 years and older who have completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine over 5 months ago or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted.

These persons should quarantine after exposure as follows:

- Stay home for at least 5 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- If no symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact.
 - If the person tests negative, they may return to school or child care **IF** they wear a well-fitting mask when around others* until 10 days after their last close contact;
 - If the person tests positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation;
 - If the person is unable to get a test, they may return to school or child care after Day 5 **IF** they wear a well-fitting mask when around others* until 10 days after their last close contact.
- If the person develops symptoms they should get tested immediately and remain at home; if the test is positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above.
- If the person is unable to mask around others, they should remain at home for 10 days from the date of last close contact.



MDH/MSDE K-12 School COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Interim Guidance - January 2022 (cont'd)

*NOTE: For people who are returning either from isolation (after a positive COVID-19 test) or quarantine (after exposure), the recommendation is that masks may be removed only when eating and during naptime. Unmasked time should be minimized and physical distancing and ventilation maximized during these times. People should not be participating in any other activities unmasked.



