



COVID-19 Technical Assistance for Schools

October 28, 2021

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 at the following link:
<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/school-resources>

Webinar Agenda

- COVID-19 Vaccination Update
- School Guidance Update
- Q and A

Next webinar will be held on: **TBD**



COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Public and Non-Public Schools

Dana Moncrief

Project Lead, Pediatric Vaccination Initiatives

October 28, 2021

Topics

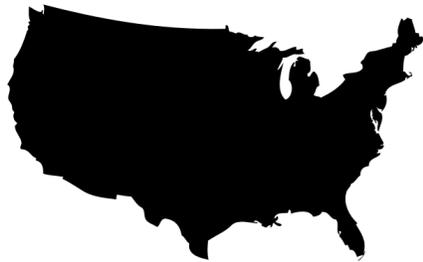
- 5-11 and 12+ Pfizer Vaccines
- How Schools Can Support Vaccination
- Resources

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Pfizer Vaccine: 12+

12+ Pfizer Vaccine

- Vaccinating youth ages 12-17 is ongoing in Maryland



United States

58% of 12-17 year olds have received at least 1 dose



Maryland

74% of 12-17 year olds have received at least 1 dose



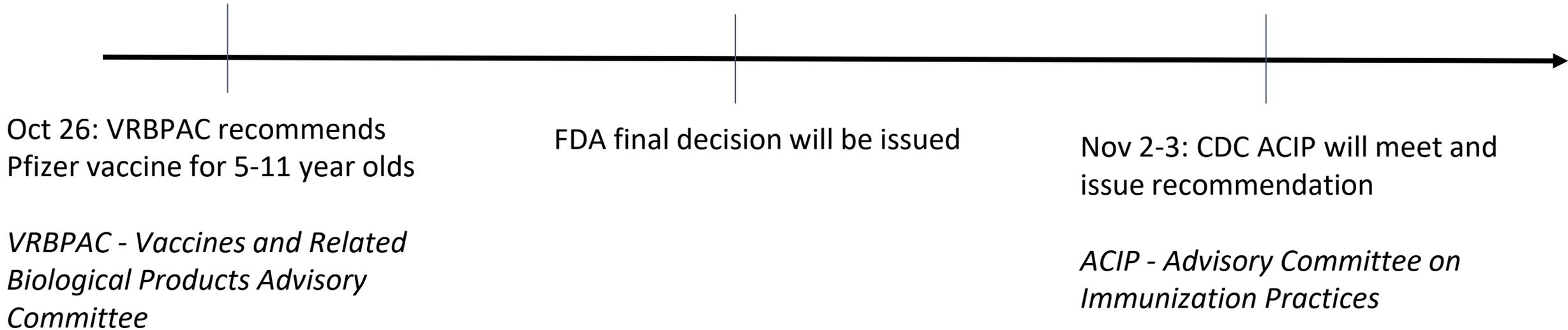
12+ Pfizer Vaccine

- May 10, 2021: Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Pfizer vaccine expanded to 12-15 year olds
- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents is **safe, effective, and free**
- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is two doses separated by 21 days
- Vaccine available through local health departments, pediatricians, hospitals, and other health clinics

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Pfizer Vaccine: 5-11 years

Pfizer Review Process



5-11 Pfizer Vaccine: Ordering and Allocation

- ~515,000 Maryland children ages 5-11 years old
- Maryland receiving initial 180,000 Pfizer doses
- Vaccine to be shipped once Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is approved

5-11 Pfizer Vaccine: Ordering and Allocation

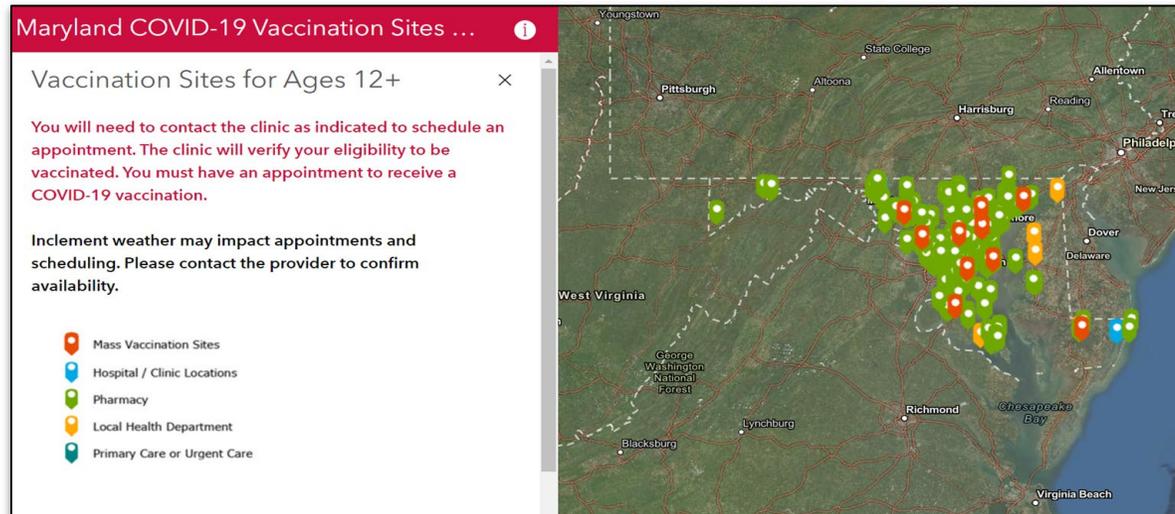
- Working in partnership with pediatricians, pharmacies, school systems, local health departments, and the Vaccine Equity Task Force
- For initial supply of 5-11 Pfizer vaccine:
 - Every Maryland jurisdiction is receiving supply
 - Every medical provider that requested >150 doses is receiving supply

5-11 Pfizer Vaccine: Packaging and Handling

- 5-11 vaccine is a **different** product from vaccine for 12+
 - **Cannot** use 12+ vaccine product for 5-11 population
 - Two doses separated by 21 days
 - Vaccine product based on **age**, not weight
- Storage in the refrigerator or an ultracold freezer
- Providers receive kits with needles, syringes, diluent, alcohol swabs, limited PPE, shot cards

How to Find Vaccine for 5-11 year olds

- Current covidLINK vaccination site finder:
<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>
- Tool will be updated to include providers administering to children 5-11



COVID-19 Vaccination Update

How Schools Can Support



6 Ways Schools Can Promote COVID-19 Vaccination

1. Recommended that schools set up vaccination clinics in their schools to vaccinate students 5 years+, if feasible
2. Partner up on COVID-19 vaccine-related activities in your community
3. Provide school staff with resources for answering general COVID-19 vaccination questions
4. Promote vaccine confidence among students, parents, and guardians
5. Promote well-child visits for routine health needs
6. Make COVID-19 a teachable moment

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Your School

- Schools should work with local health departments to host school-based vaccination clinic(s)
- School-based clinic should vaccinate students 5 years+
- Utilize Maryland's covidLINK [resources](#) and [“Considerations for Planning School-Located Vaccination Clinics”](#)

Equity focus: “School-based clinics are most efficient and effective way to provide equitable COVID-19 vaccinations, particularly to vulnerable and underprivileged children” - Dennis R. Schrader, Maryland Secretary of Health

Partner Up on COVID-19 Activities

- Connect families to experts who can answer questions about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Share 'Ask An Expert' from [GoVAX Maryland Twitter](#)
- Invite a health expert to sit on the school district's community advisory board to inform members on health issues such as COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccination.
- Inform parents through a school's communication channels about the dates and places of COVID-19 vaccination events
- Share [resources from covidLINK](#), including vaccine finder and FAQs

Arm School Staff With Resources

- Use teacher workshops, staff meetings, and newsletters to promote school staff involvement in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- Refer staff to [covidLINK resources](#) for teachers and staff with COVID-19 vaccination fact sheets and FAQs.



Promote Vaccine Confidence

- Be prepared to [address questions and address misinformation](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine with your students and their families by developing or sharing materials from credible sources.
- Consider preparing a [frequently asked question \(FAQ\)](#) document about COVID-19 vaccines
- Include COVID-19 vaccine [fact sheets](#) with other information given to parents and caregivers and added to school and school district websites.

Fact: Vaccines are safe and effective

- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most **intense safety monitoring** in U.S. history.
- Serious side effects are **rare** and long-term side effects are unlikely.

Fact: Vaccine side effects are mild

- Some patients experience **mild side effects** after receiving the vaccine.
- Side effects pale in comparison to the chance of you, or a loved one, contracting COVID-19 and falling seriously ill.
- Side effects do not include contracting COVID-19 or other serious health conditions.
- All research indicates that getting the vaccine is the **best way to protect yourself** from COVID-19.

Fact: Children CAN get long COVID

- Just like adults, kids can have **symptoms** that last well beyond the original infection like trouble with breathing, fatigue, and muscle weakness.

Fact: Claims linking COVID-19 vaccine to infertility have been disproven

- Unfounded claims linking COVID-19 vaccines to infertility have been **scientifically disproven**. There is **no evidence** that the vaccine can lead to loss of fertility.
- While fertility was not specifically studied in the clinical trials of the vaccine, **no loss of fertility has been reported** among trial participants or among the millions who have received the vaccines since their authorization, and no signs of infertility appeared in animal studies.
- Similarly, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine affects **puberty**.

Fact: 85% of Marylanders have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

- 85% of Marylanders 18+ have received at least 1 dose
- Maryland's COVID-19 positivity rate of 3.5% has declined by 31.5% over the past two months.
- Maryland ranks **8th among all states** in population fully vaccinated!

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Resources

How MDH Can Support You

MDH can support vaccination efforts by:

- **Coordinate** with school districts & schools to offer clinics in schools
- **Identify** resource & personnel requirements;
- Coordinate with MDH to fill **resource** gaps;
- **Distribute** vaccine supply and resources; and
- Execute, report, and monitor **vaccine administration**

Partnerships

MDH can help connect schools to other organizations in your County to partner with getting students vaccinated:

- Pharmacies
- [Local Health Departments](#)
- [Mobile Vax Unit](#)
- [Vaccine Equity Taskforce](#)
- [MD Public Secondary School Athletic Association](#)
- [Maryland Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Maryland Hospital Association](#)

MDH Communication Materials

GoVAX
Let's end COVID, Maryland.

Important information about the COVID-19 vaccine for ages 12 and older

Get a Covid-19 Vaccine
Protect children as they return to school and other activities

What parents and caretakers need to know:

- The vaccine has met FDA's scientific standards for children's safety
- Clinical trials show the vaccine is effective at preventing serious illness from COVID-19 for children ages 12 and older

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE FOR KIDS.

Reach "herd immunity" against COVID-19
When most people are vaccinated and develop immunity, it reduces the spread of disease.

LET'S END COVID, MARYLAND.

Find vaccine locations and make appointments for Marylanders ages 12 and older at covidvax.maryland.gov or by calling 1-855-MD-GoVAX (855-634-6829).

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

GoVAX
Let's end COVID, Maryland.

LET'S FINISH STRONG!

"Being fully vaccinated means that I'm a protector. It makes me feel empowered that I can protect my fellow citizens."

Emma Cook
Soccer Player, Allegany HS

You're meant to be on the field, the track, the court - wherever you're most in your element.

That's why you need to get the COVID-19 vaccine. So you can get back to your team - and back to the game.

"For all high school athletes, the recruitment process was greatly affected by COVID. Being vaccinated means I am better prepared to make a good choice about college and my future."

Jaylen Miller
Basketball Player, Bishop Walsh School

Learn more at covidlink.maryland.gov
Or, call 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829)

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

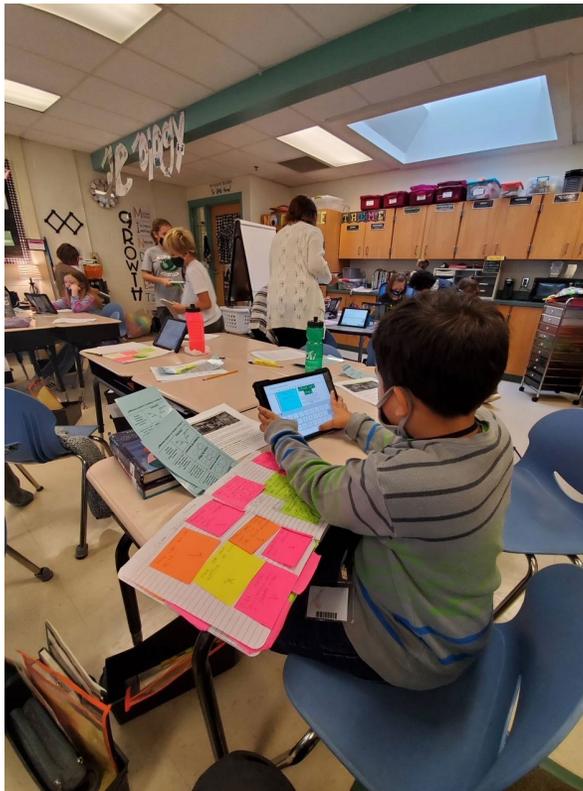
- MDH GoVax Communications [toolkit](#)
- Modifiable [Fact sheets available in different languages](#)
- Email: govax@gkv.com



Vaccine Resources

- Maryland-Specific Resources
 - [covidLINK](#)
 - [Fact sheets](#)
 - Find back-to-school vaccine [appointments](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Locator](#)
- CDC Resources
 - [Talking to Parents About COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
 - [How Schools Can Support COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)
- Toolkits
 - [We Can Do This](#) (U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services)
 - [AAP COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Thank you for protecting Maryland's youth and young adults



Questions?



Contact Information

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THANK YOU!

K-12 School and Child Care COVID-19 Guidance – Updated 10/2021

Changes to note:

- Updated - Masking language
- New - Modified quarantine options
- New - Recommendations to guide temporary suspension of in-person learning

Mask Use in School Settings

- [Emergency regulations](#) promulgated by MSDE and the Maryland State Board of Education and approved on 9/14/2021 by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR), require that all individuals cover their mouth and nose with a face covering while inside a public school facility.
- Masking recommendations for non-public schools (and child care) remain unchanged
- Federal order that face masks be worn by all people while on public transportation conveyances, including public and private school buses, is still in effect

MDH Modified Quarantine Options for K-12 Schools

If a local school system or school chooses to implement a modified quarantine option, MDH and MSDE strongly recommend the following:

- All individuals should be required to wear masks when inside a school facility.
- Local school systems/schools should ensure that multiple layered prevention strategies are in place.
- Close contacts in the school setting should continue to be identified, notified, and reported to local health departments for the purposes of contact tracing.
- Close contacts identified in the school setting should continue to quarantine outside of school settings and should not participate in higher risk school-sponsored activities (ex. indoor or high contact athletics, band, chorus) for the duration of the typical quarantine period.

MDH Modified Quarantine Options for K-12 Schools (cont'd)

If a local school system or school chooses to implement a modified quarantine option, MDH and MSDE strongly recommend the following:

- Local school systems/schools should collect and track data on COVID-19 cases and close contacts to ensure that use of modified quarantine options are not contributing to increased COVID-19 transmission within schools.
- Parents/students should be given the ability to opt out of a modified quarantine option and quarantine at home per current CDC recommendations.
- In the setting of a school COVID-19 outbreak, if there is indication of ongoing or uncontrolled transmission associated with the school or a school-sponsored activity, modified quarantine options might not be appropriate and other outbreak control measures may be required, as directed by the local health department.

MDH Modified Quarantine Options for K-12 Schools (cont'd)

- Modified quarantine options do not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the school setting.
- Exposures that are higher risk or occur where masks are not being worn also do not qualify for modified quarantine (e.g. lunch, indoor or high contact athletics, indoor forced exhalation activities such as singing, exercising, or playing a wind or brass instrument).

Modified Quarantine Option – Test to Stay

- Asymptomatic unvaccinated students who are a close contact of a student with COVID-19 in K-12 indoor or outdoor settings or school transportation AND both the infected student and exposed student(s) were correctly and consistently wearing well-fitting masks for all exposures
- Not required to quarantine if the students are tested daily for at least 5 days (or a reasonable alternative such as days 1, 3, 5, and 7) following exposure and remain asymptomatic. The exposed student(s) should continue to wear a mask for 14 days in school settings.
- **While each of the modified quarantine options poses a risk for in-school COVID-19 transmission, the “test to stay” option potentially poses the least amount of risk.**

Modified Quarantine Option – Weekly Screening Testing

- Asymptomatic unvaccinated students who are a close contact of a student with COVID-19 in K-12 indoor or outdoor settings or school transportation AND both the infected student and exposed student(s) were correctly and consistently wearing well-fitting masks for all exposures
- Not required to quarantine if they are actively participating in at least weekly school screening testing and remain asymptomatic. The exposed student(s) should continue to wear a mask for 14 days in school settings.
- **This modified quarantine option potentially poses risk for in-school COVID-19 transmission**

Modified Quarantine Option – Correct and Consistent Use of Well-fitting Masks

- Asymptomatic unvaccinated students who are a close contact of a student with COVID-19 in K-12 indoor or outdoor settings or school transportation AND both the infected student and exposed student(s) were correctly and consistently wearing well-fitting masks for all exposures
- Not required to quarantine, as long as they remain asymptomatic. The exposed student(s) should continue to wear a mask for 14 days in school settings.
- **This modified quarantine option potentially poses the highest risk for in-school COVID-19 transmission.**

	Approaches to Quarantine* for Asymptomatic Unvaccinated Persons Who are Close Contacts of a Person with COVID-19 in K-12 Indoor and Outdoor Settings and on School Transportation				
	CDC Standard Quarantine	CDC Shortened Quarantine	MDH Modified Quarantine Options		
			Test to Stay	Weekly Screening Testing	Correct and Consistent Use of Well-Fitting Masks
Eligible Persons	Teachers, staff, and students, regardless of whether masks were worn		Students exposed to students, both correctly and consistently wearing well-fitting masks for all exposures		
Applicable for Higher Risk Exposures**	Yes		No		
Length of Exclusion from School	14 days	10 days OR 7 days with a negative test on or after day 5 after exposure	No exclusion if the exposed students are tested daily for at least 5 days (or a reasonable alternative) following exposure	No exclusion if the exposed students are participating in at least weekly school screening testing	No exclusion if the infected student and exposed students were correctly and consistently wearing well-fitting masks for all exposures
Additional Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for symptoms 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for symptoms Mask in school settings for 14 days No participation in higher risk school-sponsored activities** Quarantine outside of school settings 		

*Risk of in-school transmission increases from left to right across quarantine options.

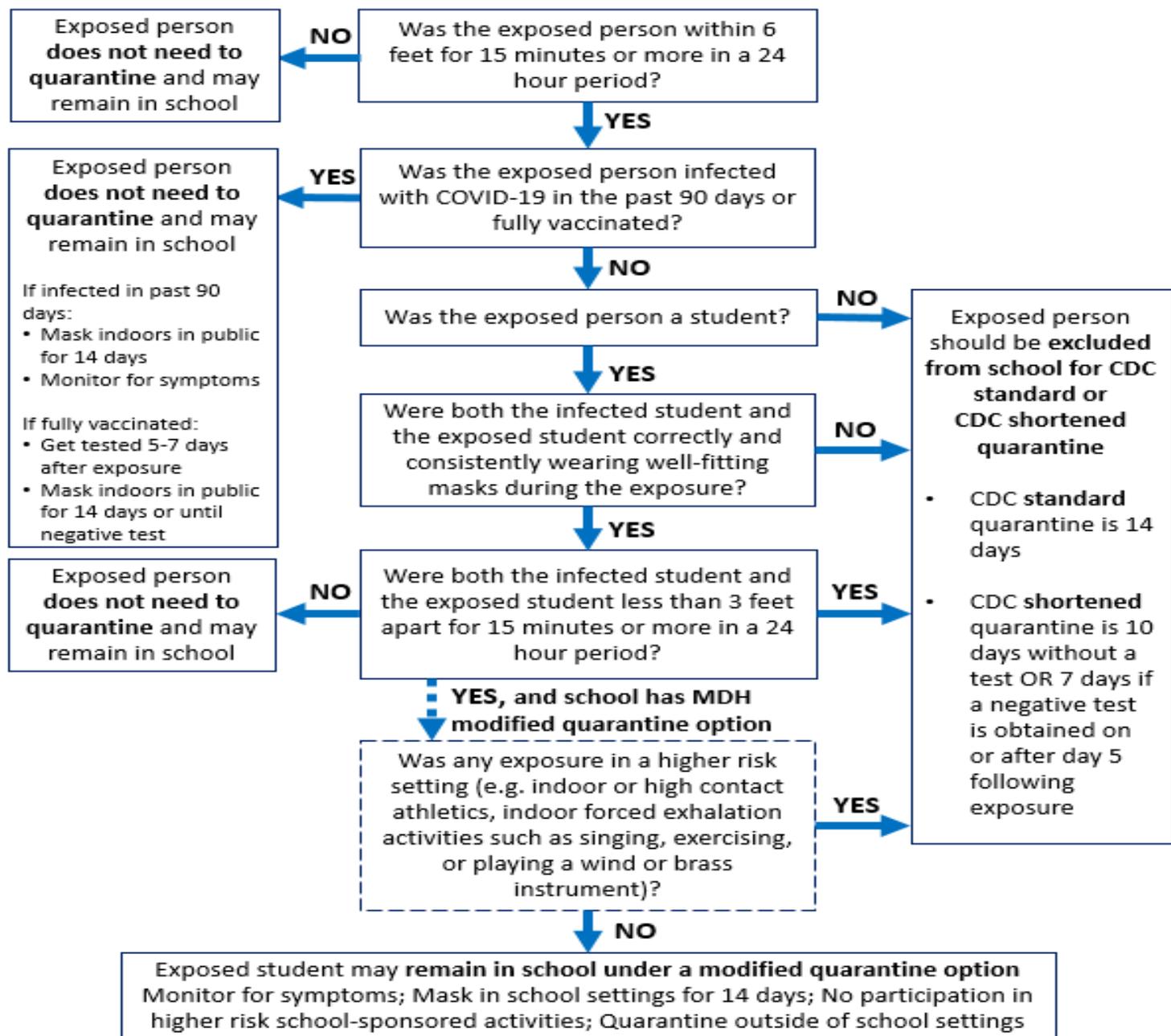
**E.g. Indoor or high contact athletics, indoor forced exhalation activities such as singing, exercising, or playing a wind or brass instrument.

Who Needs to Quarantine?

Teachers/Other Staff:

- If either the infected person or exposed person is a **teacher/other staff**, and the exposed person was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period, the exposed person should be excluded from school for CDC standard or shortened quarantine.

Quarantine after exposure to a **student** infected with COVID-19 in K-12 indoor or outdoor settings or on school transportation. The exposed student must be asymptomatic.



Suspension of In-Person Learning

While the goal is to continue in-person learning whenever possible, MDH and MSDE recommend the following criteria for temporary suspension of in-person learning in a specific school (or classroom/cohort within a school):

- When there is evidence of substantial, uncontrolled in-school transmission
- When schools need additional time to identify, notify, and exclude close contacts
- When there are logistical or safety concerns arising from the number of cases and close contacts
- When discussed with and recommended by local public health and medical professionals

Decisions around the suspension of in-person learning for an entire school or a portion of a school due to COVID-19 as well as the duration of the suspension of in-person learning should be made in coordination with the local health department and the local school system as applicable.

