



Update to Covid Mitigation Policies Effective Monday, March 28, 2022

Our Covid Mitigation Policies have been updated to be more adaptable to the ever-changing conditions and to reflect the current state of falling COVID-19 case counts, lower absenteeism, and vaccination availability for those over 5 years old. This update incorporates the feedback from the community, which includes our students, parents, teachers, and staff, where commonly communicated goals were:

- To strongly consider the pre-K and unprotected population that cannot be fully isolated
- To strongly consider the teachers who are in close contact with a wide range of students
- To allow for a more relaxed environment whenever safely possible
- To be dynamic, agile, and proactive instead of static and/or reactive
- To be transparent with clear, simple data markers

Documented below are the updated Covid mitigation policies of OHMCS.

Masking

Every Friday a decision on whether masking will be required or optional for the following school week will be made and communicated based on specific county and school-level data markers. This decision will be announced through the Friday “OHMCS News From The Week” email and on the [OHMCS COVID webpage](#).

Masking will be required for the following week unless all of the following benchmarks are met or exceeded:

- [COVID-19 Community Level](#) for Ramsey County is at Low
- [SARS-CoV-2 RNA Levels in Wastewater](#) 15-day percent change for Ramsey County is at 9% or less
- Less than 5% of the school population is actively COVID positive

If all conditions are met then masking will be optional for the following week.

Quarantine and Isolation

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 or are close contacts must follow the CDC quarantine and isolation guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

- Following a close contact* those who are unvaccinated will be required to quarantine for 5 full days, and to wear a mask at all times upon their return to school during days 6-10. Alternatively, those unable or unwilling to mask may choose to quarantine for 10 full days.
- Following a close contact those who are vaccinated or who have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days, may return to school, testing immediately and again on day 5, even if symptoms do not develop. Students will be required to wear a mask through day 10.

(“Close Contact is someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. People who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 after they completed at least 5 days of isolation are not considered close contacts.”*

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to quarantine for 5 full days. Students must be symptom free and able to wear a mask at all times upon their return to school during days 6-10. Toddlers, nappers, and those unable or unwilling to mask must quarantine for 10 full days.
- Students showing COVID-like symptoms may be asked to wear a mask prior to receiving a negative test result. COVID-like symptoms may include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Other Mitigation Strategies

All other current mitigation strategies will remain in place. (e.g. bipolar ionization air handling system, increased sanitization, age level cohort groupings, and divided entrances)

As always, students and staff are reminded to stay home when they are ill.

As we have throughout the pandemic, our school continues to follow guidance from National (CDC) and State (MDH) health officials. Please know that we remain committed to following the latest guidance as is necessary to continue learning in person safely.