



Office of the Superintendent

Phil Jankowski

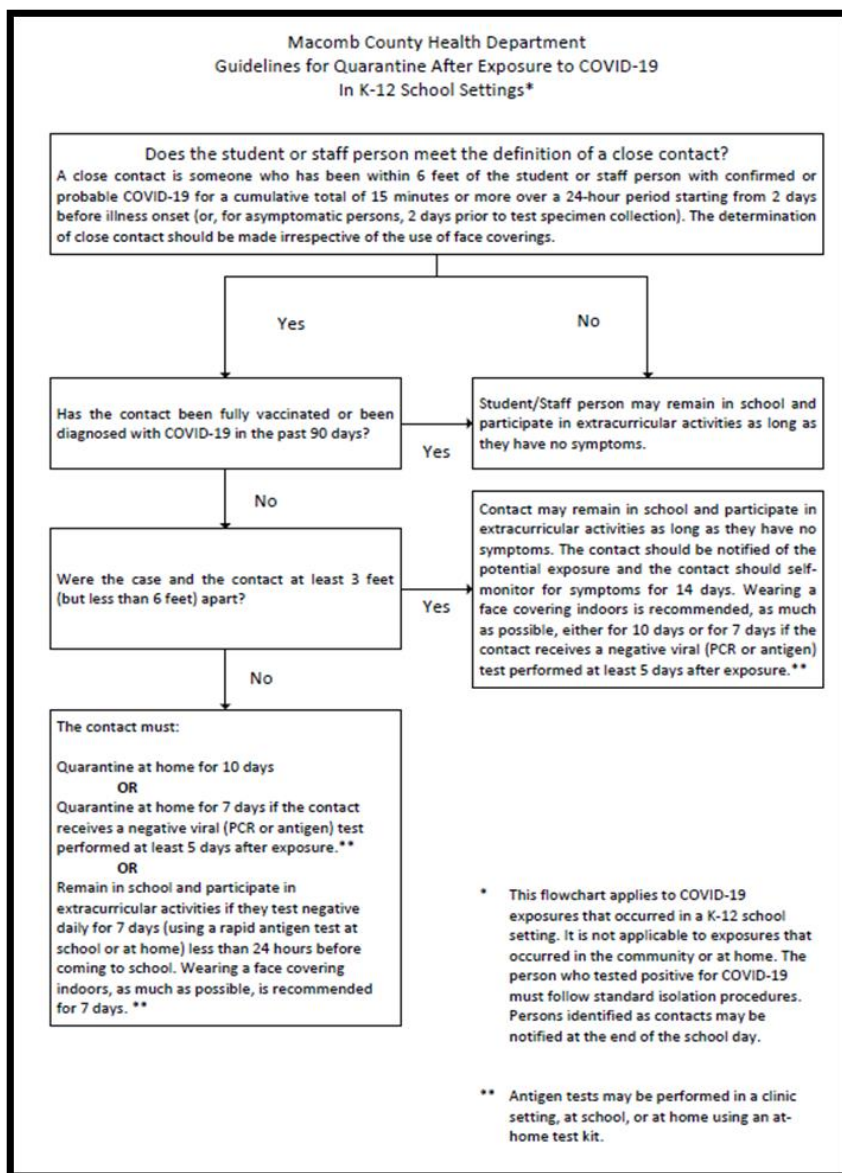
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Dear Parents,

As the calendar turns from September to October, I wanted to update you on the status of COVID protocols. We meet with the Macomb County Health Department on a weekly basis and review cases and discuss protocols. Over the past few weeks, both the Macomb County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have issued recommendations on how to deal with COVID cases.

Thus far this year, we are averaging a 0.3% positivity rate per week, or one-third of one percent. We have had between 2-5 cases a day which puts us close to average for districts in the metro area - regardless of whether those districts require masks or just recommend masks. An examination of the cases in Oakland County and Macomb County schools shows no significant difference between the case loads between the two counties as both are slightly below 1% of cases with Macomb showing 0.92% of students having cases and Oakland a fraction higher at 0.93%.

Based on tracking of cases throughout the first month of school across the county, Macomb County has recently revised its quarantine practices. These revised guidelines reflect that 98% of student quarantines have not resulted in new cases and contact tracing has shown 92% of cases have originated outside of school. Parents will now have more options to remain in school ranging from the standard 10-day quarantine to opting into daily testing to remain in school each day. Please see the new flow chart at right. These quarantine guidelines are in effect



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immediately and the county website will be updated soon to reflect these changes. We will be developing testing options over the next few weeks to implement testing for those who request it.

Our expectation is this will reduce quarantines by 75%. However, there will still be cases and some families may opt to follow the 10-day quarantine. During quarantine, students will have work available to them on Schoology. Unfortunately, live streamed classes are not always possible, however teachers will have work available as soon as the second day of quarantine for students.

To streamline the contact tracing and quarantine process, we are asking parents to share the vaccine card for their vaccinated students. This will minimize disruptions to parents as we follow the contact tracing protocols as fully vaccinated, asymptomatic students do not have to quarantine. As such, we encourage parents to have their student get vaccinated if they would like to avoid being quarantined. Due to recent requests, we will be hosting a vaccine clinic for those interested sometime in October.

Going forward, we will be making use of our **automated messenger** to contact parents of those who are deemed in close contact. This will enable us to speed up the communication and be more efficient in notifying parents. Parents can contact their school office if they have further questions. For those who wish to track our current COVID reporting, we list all cases on our [COVID website](#) which is listed on our main district web page – this page is updated regularly as cases are identified and confirmed.

If you are not receiving messages from the schools or district, you may have to opt in or check your email settings. Our [School Messenger website](#) has directions on how to get reconnected, or you can contact your child's school building and they will assist you.

There are many strategies we can use to fight COVID – the single best one is to keep students home if they feel ill at all. It is far better for a student to miss one day because they might feel under the weather and have them tested than to send them to school and risk infecting others.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation this year as we work with the health department to combat this pandemic. We are committed to following the data and guidance of the health department to create a safe environment where all students can learn.

Thank you,

Phil Jankowski
Superintendent
Anchor Bay Schools

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