

COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Saginaw County



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FAQ Info for Parents

COVID-19 is still spreading in Saginaw County — which means it is still a threat to health. We care about you and your family's health as much as education. So, while the virus is still new, we have worked with your school district, as well as state and federal partners, to give you the best information we have as we prepare to return to school in the fall.

Q: What steps can we take to prepare our children for school and prevent them from getting COVID-19?

- Check your own thoughts and attitudes – if you are negative about school, they probably will be too. Instead, reassure them that everyone is working together to make their return to school as safe as possible.
- Help them wash their hands often and correctly – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Help them avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your own home.
- Help them comprehend what six feet apart means – use pool noodles, a measuring tape, etc.
- Practice wearing masks – start for short periods of time and work your way up.
- Show them how to cover their sneezes and coughs correctly.
- Teach them to use hand sanitizer and wipes to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Help your student monitor his or her health – look for symptoms and take their temperature every morning.

Q: What if my student comes in “close contact” with a teacher, staff member or other student who has COVID-19 at school?

Know that COVID-19 is everywhere in the community. Every time you go out of the home, you and your children are at risk for getting exposed. That said, schools are working to create the safest possible experience. This includes handwashing, social distancing, reducing shared items, masks, keeping classes in the classroom more, and limiting movement within the school building.

If your child IS exposed to someone with COVID-19 at school, they should stay home for 14 days since the last time they were around that person to see if they develop symptoms. If they do get symptoms, then:

- Call your doctor
 - Ask to get tested
 - Follow your doctor's instructions for staying home while you wait for the test results
- If you have other children in your home, who do not have symptoms, they may continue to go to work and school. If the child who was in close contact gets sick, then your other students should stay home too.

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Q: What if my student develops symptoms at school?

If your child experiences symptoms AT school, they will immediately isolate them from others in a designated room and call you. You will then need to call your doctor, ask to get tested, and follow your doctor's instructions.

Q: How will I know if my student was around someone who was sick?

Your school has a system they developed with us to do contact tracing. They will call you if your student was a close contact to a positive case. We will follow up with you. Your school will communicate with the school community to let people know that there is a positive case and how they are handling it.

Q: Will schools close if someone gets COVID-19?

We hope that isn't necessary. We are helping your school create an environment that allows them to better control how students and classrooms move within the building. By limiting movement, we hope they have the ability to deal with isolating smaller groups of children rather than disrupting the entire school.

School will work with the Saginaw County Health Department to determine when and if school closure is necessary.

But rest assured your student's safety, and the safety of school staff, are everyone's highest priority.

Thank you for supporting your school.