



LIVINGSTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2300 East Grand River Avenue, Suite 102

Howell, Michigan 48843-7578

www.lchd.org

PERSONAL/PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

P: (517) 546-9850

F: (517) 546-6995

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

P: (517) 546-9858

F: (517) 546-9853

Jan 12, 2022

Dear Highlander Way Middle School Administration Team,

Thank you for working with us to identify multiple COVID-19 cases at Highlander Way Middle School. Given the proximity (time and location) of the cases, these likely represent multiple clusters.

What does this mean for preventing further spread?

In cluster or outbreak situation with multiple individuals, we recommend that a broader notification go out to any individual who was known to, or may have, been exposed to individuals associated with the cluster. Typically with multiple clusters, this notification would go out to the entire school.

School exclusions (or enrollment into the alternate school attendance program if applicable) should resume unless universal masking policies are in place for the school as described below.

What additional mitigation measures should be taken?

In addition to the recommendations in place by the CDC, MDHHS, and LCHD, LCHD is recommending the following specific mitigation steps to ensure that everyone stays safe:

Wear an appropriately fitting face mask

- LCHD continues to strongly recommend universal masking in all K-12 schools. Masks should be well fitting. LCHD recommends a surgical mask (or higher quality) rather than a cloth mask given the transmissibility of the omicron variant.
- In the setting of a cluster or outbreak, it becomes imperative that masks are worn by all staff and students that may have been exposed to this cluster or outbreak. With multiple clusters, this would include all staff and students at the school. At a minimum, universal masking should be in place for 14 - 28 days although this recommendation may extend if additional cases are discovered.
- If universal masking is in place in a school, students and staff do not need to be excluded even if exposed to individuals in a cluster as this strategy sufficiently reduces the risk of in-school transmission. Additional information about this strategy can be found in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (Chop) Guidance for In-person Education in K-12 Educational Settings (<https://bit.ly/3zSYd6u>).

COVID-19 Testing

- It is recommended that all close contacts undergo at least one (1) provider-administered test (Rapid Antigen or PCR) at day 5 of being notified of their exposure. A list of providers can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3i9iygc>.

Staying home if symptomatic

- In outbreak situations, there is a higher risk of being exposed to a COVID-19 case. Individuals should be very diligent about symptoms. If any symptoms listed below develop (including very mild symptoms), individuals should isolate and seek medical attention including a PCR test.
 - Fever of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Other early symptoms to watch for are runny nose/congestion, chills, body aches, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting

Additional steps

If additional cases are discovered, in close collaboration with Highlander Way Middle School, LCHD may recommend additional mitigation steps including a temporary pause in in-person learning for a short period of time.

If you have questions, contact LCHD at covid19@livgov.com. For more information, please see our website at www.lchd.org.

Regards,



Juan Marquez, MD, MPH
Medical Director | Livingston County Health Department