

Fayette R-III Mask Mandate Guidelines
Approved by Fayette Board of Education: November 18, 2020
Revised: January 21, 2021

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have modified state guidance as of November 12, 2020, related to quarantining close contacts in the school setting. If the school district has implemented a mask mandate, and appropriate masks were being worn correctly by both individuals during the time of exposure in the school setting, the individual who came in contact with the person with COVID-19 does not have to quarantine at home.

The Howard County Public Health Department supports the following guidelines which align with the Department of Health and Senior Services and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will continue to be required to isolate regardless of mask use.
- Students and staff who are identified as close contacts due to COVID-19 exposure outside of school (home, close friends, work, etc.) will be required to quarantine and are not eligible for in seat learning for the 10 day quarantine period. Students will continue with their education through distance learning methods. Students now have the option to “test out” of quarantine on Day 7 with a negative PCR result. Specific requirements can be obtained from health officials.
- Students and staff who are identified as close contacts due to COVID-19 **school exposure**, who display no signs/symptoms of COVID-19, will be provided the opportunity to continue in-seat learning as long as both the positive individual and close contact were appropriately wearing masks during the time of exposure.
- Students and staff who are identified as close contacts due to exposure at school will be afforded the opportunity to quarantine at home if they choose to do so.
- Parents and guardians are expected to closely monitor their students, especially if identified as close contacts, for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and immediately remove them from the learning environment.
- Mask use language will change from “strongly encouraged” to "required." Students in grades K-12 are required to wear a mask at all times, unless they are eating lunch and/or engaged in physical activity.
- If close contact guidelines including social distancing cannot be maintained during lunch, physical education classes or athletic activities, then the identified close contacts or team may be quarantined for 10 days.
- All staff members are required to wear a mask at all times. Exceptions include eating lunch or when working alone in an office or classroom.
- The school nurse will continue to conduct all contact tracing investigations and contact all students and families identified as close contacts to provide health information. A variety of contact tracing efforts will continue to be used to gather needed information, such as interviews with parents, students, teachers, review of seating charts, etc.

- Teachers and staff will continue to maintain seating charts for all classes and bus routes.
- The District will continue to provide communication to parents and guardians around known positive COVID-19 cases and exposures in the District as applicable and with respect to privacy requirements.
- Health and safety precautions such as frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and staying home when not feeling well are prioritized and reinforced with students and staff.

The District will collaborate with the Howard County Health Department to monitor for the spread of COVID within the school and evaluate the new guidelines at the monthly board meetings or sooner as needed. Based on the recommendation of the Howard County Health Department, the board can extend or discontinue the new guidelines each month.