



Austintown Local School District
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Austintown Local School District Safe Return to School General Information

- We welcome everyone back to our outstanding school district. The first day of school is Monday, August 30 for ALL students.
- We will continue with many of the mitigating strategies that we found effective last school year such as hand sanitizers and wipes in all classrooms, heightened cleaning protocols, and social distancing. We will encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- Our three newer buildings have proper ventilation systems. Our older high school building will have a new air purification system in every classroom for increased ventilation and better air quality.
- The only mandate that remained in place from April is that students must wear masks on the bus. (State Mandate)
- Students and staff may wear masks at their own discretion while in our school buildings.
- Wearing a mask would eliminate the need to quarantine. Students could remain in the normal in-classroom setting and participate in extracurricular activities and sport activities as long as they have no symptoms.
- Physical distancing of 3-feet will be strongly encouraged in classrooms and in cafeterias.
- If students are in close contact (inside 3-feet) and are vaccinated, students can remain in the normal in-classroom setting and attend extracurricular and sport activities as long as they have no symptoms. (See chart attached)
- We will continue to monitor the guidance from the CDC and the state health department (Governor Dewine) as new recommendations and mandates become available.

Austintown Local School District Safe Return to School FAQs

- 1. Q: How is COVID-19 positive case determined?**
A: This requires either a medical diagnosis from a physician or a positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. Positive cases must be reported to your building nurse.
- 2. Q: Is there a state law that gives health departments legal authority to quarantine students and staff?**
A: Ohio Revised Code 3707.11 gives health departments authority to quarantine or isolate. COVID-19 is defined as a Class A, reportable disease for quarantine/isolation. Click [here](#) to read ORC 3707.11.
- 3. Q: What is the incentive to wear a mask in school?**
A: Students who wear a mask to school are less likely to be quarantined if they come in contact with a COVID-19 positive case in a classroom setting.
- 4. Q: Will there be enhanced cleaning in buildings and classrooms?**
A: Yes, the district will continue enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
- 5. Q: Will the district be able to social distance students?**
A: The CDC recommends 3 feet of distance between students and the Austintown Local School District believes 3 feet of distance between students and staff can be achieved most of the time. There will be times when that space is greater than 3 feet and times when it is less than 3 feet.
- 6. Q: When should I keep my child(ren) home from school and when can my child(ren) return to school?**
A: Any child exhibiting symptoms of illness should remain home until symptom-free for 24 hours.
- 7. Q: What if my child exhibits signs of illness at school?**
A: Any child exhibiting signs of illness will be sent to the clinic and a trusted, approved adult may be required to pick up the child.
- 8. Q: My vaccinated child was exposed to COVID-19 in school, does s/he have to quarantine.**
A: According to the Ohio Department of Health, fully vaccinated students do not have to be quarantined as long as they do not have symptoms.

9. Q: Where can I get more information about the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Education COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for the 2021-2022 school year?

A: That information can be found [here](#).

10. Q: What are my learning options for the 2021-2022 school year?

A: The Austintown Local School District is offering one model of learning: traditional in-person instruction. This is our best learning model. It puts our students in a position to have the greatest opportunity for academic success and narrow the learning gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic. If another option is needed for your student, please contact the principal at your building.

11. Q: If my child is absent from school, how do I get make-up work?

A: Your child's teacher will provide make-up work and explain how to access it.

12. Q: Why aren't face masks required for unvaccinated students at Austintown Local Schools?

A: We follow the Ohio Department of Health's (Governor Dewine) recommendations and at this time they are **not** requiring masks. Without this mandate, we believe this is a parental decision.

13. Q: Why are face masks required on school buses?

A: The Ohio Department of Health has ordered face masks to be worn on public transportation, including school buses, and regardless of vaccination status.

14. Q: My child cannot wear a face-covering because of a medical condition. Is there a facial-covering waiver process?

A: Yes. Medical/ADA facial-covering waivers can be obtained by your family doctor and brought to your student's building office.

15. Q: Are meals (breakfast/lunch) free during the 2021-2022 school year?

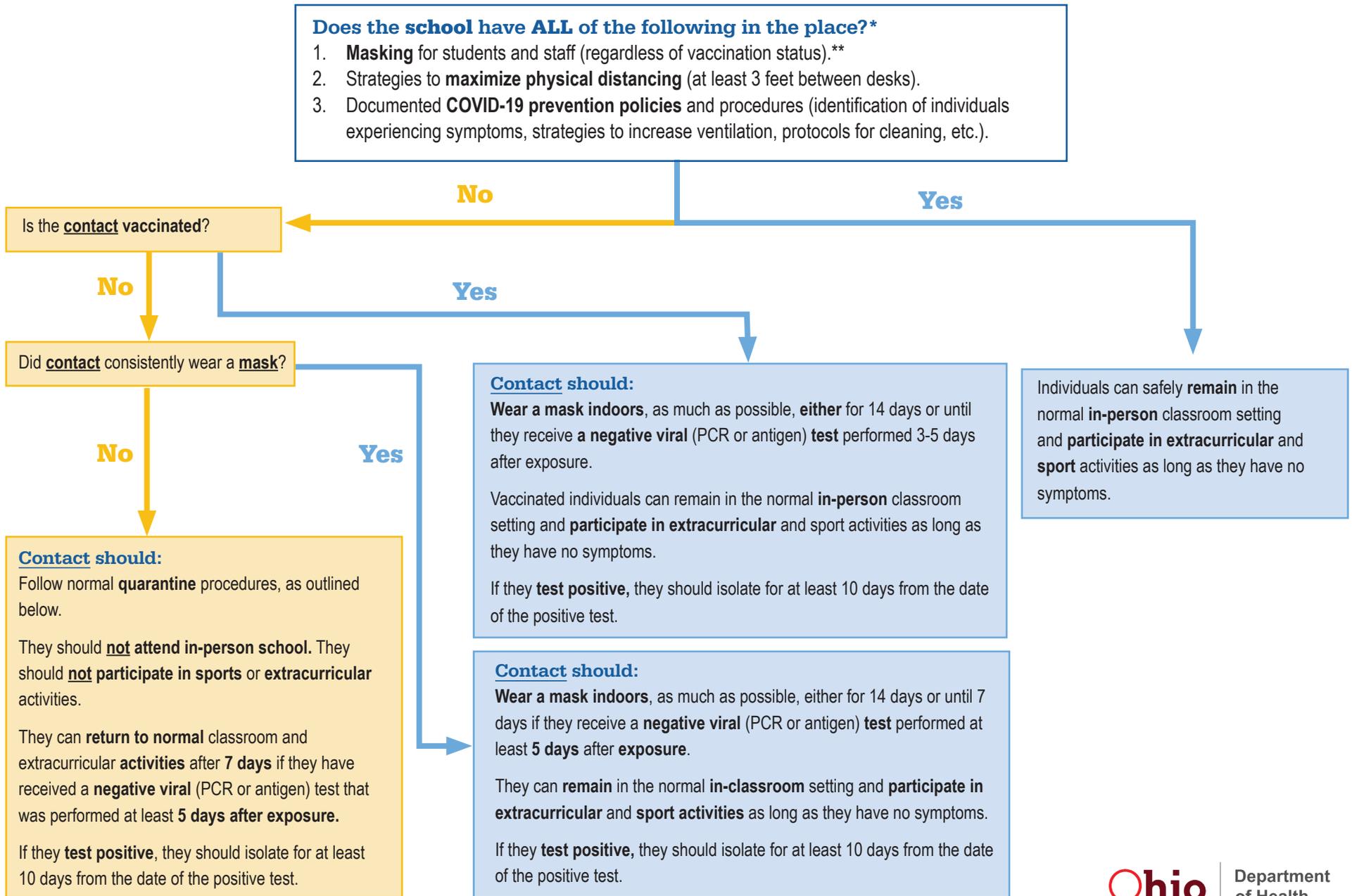
A: Yes, meals continue to be free for the 2021-2022 school year as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

16. Q: If meals are free do I need to fill out a free and reduced lunch application?

A: Yes. If you think you could qualify for free and reduced lunch status it is IMPORTANT that you still fill out the application to qualify for additional cost waivers, such as school fees.

Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

This chart can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting.



*This flowchart applies only to COVID-19 exposures that occurred within a K-12 classroom setting. It is not applicable to exposure in the community, extracurricular, or sports environment.

**The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.