

Huntingdon Area School District COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Updated December 22, 2021

[Social Distancing](#)

What are the expectations for social distancing guidelines in our classrooms? **Classrooms will continue to strive for 3 feet of social distancing within classes, when possible, which has been the protocol thus far during the 21-22 school year.**

[Masking](#)

Do students have to wear a mask at school?

Students have a choice to mask or not as per the school board local decision as of December 13, 2021.

Why does my child have to wear a mask on the bus?

The federal directive requires all passengers and drivers to wear a mask on school buses. Students and drivers must continue to wear masks on school buses.

Are masks required at extracurricular and sporting events?

Masks are strongly recommended at extracurricular and sporting events, but are not required unless the person is required to quarantine behind a mask due to being identified as a close contact. The mask guidelines at extracurricular and sporting events are governed by the Health and Safety Plan.

If a student is quarantined with a mask, can they take their mask off at lunch or any other time during the school day?

Students can remove their mask at lunch while eating. Additionally seating and tables will be added to provide great distancing.

If a student is quarantined with a mask, are they still able to participate in sports/extracurricular events?

An athlete can still participate if they properly wear a mask at all times, including while they are actively engaged in sport.

How will staff know who is to be masked during the 10 day quarantine mask window? **A Google Doc with those that need to be masked will be shared with HS/MS staff. Homeroom teachers of students at the elementary level will be notified. Students must wear masks properly, or they will be sent home for the remainder of the 10-day quarantine.**

Quarantine Requirements

What is required for schools in reporting and quarantining students and staff? **In alignment with requirements in Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27 (relating to communicable and noncommunicable diseases), schools must:**

- Report positive cases of COVID-19 to DOH for case investigation, contact tracing, and issuance of quarantine and/or isolation orders; and
- Exclude school children and staff from having contact with other school children or staff showing symptoms of a communicable disease.

Is a student or staff member allowed to remain at school if they have COVID symptoms or test positive for COVID?

No, if you have any symptoms we must exclude the person with symptoms. It is required to do a quarantine outside of the school.

What happens if my child is identified as a close contact at school with NO symptoms?

Regardless of vaccination status, you have three options for your child:

- Test Upon notification of exposure. On day five the student may be tested by the family's healthcare or outside provider. Upon a negative test being received, the student returns.
- Quarantine behind the mask for 10 days after their last date of exposure. Students must properly wear a mask for 10 days while in the school setting. *If proper masking wearing is not followed the student will be asked to quarantine at home for the remainder of the quarantine period.*
- Quarantine at home for 10 days. The student must participate in assigned education in order for the days to be counted toward their attendance.

If my child is vaccinated why do they have to quarantine if they are a close contact? **A small percentage of fully vaccinated individuals may still get COVID. Vaccinated individuals also still may spread the virus. Vaccinations help reduce the symptoms and the need for hospitalization. Vaccinated individuals will simply need to mask as an added precaution to**

remain in school as a close contact.

If a student has a mask exemption and is a close contact, do they have the option to stay at school without a mask?

No. Students with an exemption may quarantine at home if they do not wish to mask. If they want to stay at school, they must wear a mask.

What is the procedure for a close contact that happens in the same household outside of school?

The student can quarantine for 10 days at home and if they are asymptomatic return to school wearing a mask on day 11 through day 20.

What happens if my student is COVID positive?

If your child receives a COVID positive test, they must quarantine. There is not an option to return to school with a mask. The student will do their school work remotely.