



JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

School District Status Regarding Guidance from Health

Department

August 4, 2021

The Johnstown-Monroe Local Schools will be adhering to guidance received from the Ohio Department of Health and the Licking County Department of Health with regard to issues, practices and protocols related to the COVID viral pandemic. As we did last school year, we will strive to provide the safest environment for our staff, students and community while keeping our focus on the reason we exist.....to provide quality educational opportunities and experiences to our students. We promote respect for everyone having the right to their opinions on issues (i.e. vaccinations, facial coverings, etc.) and ask everyone to be respectful to each other regarding individual decisions made as to how each person will live with this virus. If changes occur with respect to health practices and protocols during the school year, we will communicate those changes as they are received and authorized. We ask for your continued patience and support for your schools, and each other, as together, we continue our efforts to overcome this health challenge and provide a quality education for our children. The following is the latest guidance and information from the Department of Health (as of August 4, 2021).

Introduction

The Licking County Health Department (LCHD) has developed this guidance document to assist school administrators with developing COVID-19 protocols for the 2021-22 school year. LCHD is committed to working with all the schools in the county to make the school environment as safe as possible.

Vaccinations

- The COVID vaccine is the best defense against COVID-19.
- The Licking County Health Department (LCHD) urges all individuals that are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to receive the vaccine as soon as possible.
- LCHD operates walk-in clinics from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There are no appointments necessary.
- The clinics are held at the LCHD facility located at 675 Price Road in Newark.
- To view a full list of vaccine providers please visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>.

Isolation

- Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3707.04 et seq., any individual that tests positive (PCR or Rapid Test) for COVID-19 will be required to isolate, regardless of whether the individual is vaccinated. The isolation period will be 10 days from the day that the individual started experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- If someone is asymptomatic, they will be required to isolate for 10 days after their test date.

- Individuals that test positive that are fully vaccinated will still be required to isolate.

Quarantine

- Individuals that are within 6' of someone that tests positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period, and not wearing masks, will be required to quarantine for 10 days from their last exposure to the individual with COVID-19. The exposure period begins two days prior to when the individual started to experience COVID-19 symptoms, or if the individual is asymptomatic, 10 days from the day the individual tested positive for COVID-19.
- If individuals are separated by at least 3' and wearing masks and one of them tests positive for COVID-19 the individual that is considered a close contact will not be required to quarantine. The individual that tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate as indicated above. However, this scenario only applies to a classroom setting. Students and staff identified as having close contact to an individual with COVID-19 will be notified via email by LCHD.
- **Anyone that is fully vaccinated, and is considered a close contact of an individual that tests positive for COVID-19, will not be required to quarantine.**
- Schools will send all close contacts to LCHD on the reporting template provided to LCHD, regardless of their vaccination status. Only the report template provided by LCHD will be accepted for close contact reporting. The school district will not be involved with determining who is vaccinated and who is not.
- LCHD will send email notifications to all close contacts.

Masks

- There are no requirements for students or staff to wear masks inside school buildings in Ohio.
- The Ohio Department of Health recommends that unvaccinated individuals wear masks inside school buildings.
- LCHD does not have the authority to issue a requirement for staff or students to wear masks inside school buildings.
- Parents may choose to have their child wear a mask during school activities subject to the school rules.

Masks on School Buses

- The CDC has issued an order requiring masks be worn on public transportation, which includes school buses and is in place until September 13, 2021.
- This is a federal order.
- LCHD does not have the authority to enforce this order.

NOTE: THE JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS NO MASK MANDATE FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECOMMENDS UNVACCINATED PERSONS WEAR A MASK AND OUR STAFF WILL PROMOTE RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL CHOICE ON WEARING OR NOT WEARING FACIAL COVERING. IN KEEPING WITH OUR PAST AND ONGOING POLICY AND PRACTICE, WE WILL NOT TOLERATE DISRESPECT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT OR BULLYING. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR

CHILDREN, AND EACH OTHER, TO BE RESPECTFUL TO ONE ANOTHER AND RESPECT EACH PERSONS' CHOSEN WAY TO LIVE WITH THIS VIRUS.

Enhanced Cleaning

- Schools will continue implementing the enhanced cleaning processes that were implemented during the 2019-20 school year.
- This enhanced cleaning will especially include high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, desks, tables and other items.

NOTE: THE JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL CONTINUE NOT ONLY OUR ENHANCED CLEANING PROCESSES; BUT ALSO CONTINUE THE APPLICATION OF ELECTROSTATIC SURFACE PROTECTANTS TO PROTECT AGAINST MANY BACTERIAL AND VIRAL ELEMENTS.

HANDWASHING

- Proper handwashing is vitally important to the prevention of all diseases, not just COVID-19. Continuing to implement enhanced handwashing practices as you did last year will go a long way in helping prevent cases of COVID-19.

NOTE: THE JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AND STAFF TO WASH HANDS AND/OR SANITIZE ON A REGULAR BASIS AND TO NOT TOUCH EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH DURING THE COURSE OF THE SCHOOL DAY AND AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.