

# New Guidance from VDH

## January 27,2022

The VDH recognizes that parents will have the choice to wear a mask at school at some point in the near future.

### **VDH Recommendations**

- Regardless of vaccination status all persons age two and older wear a mask indoors when the transmission level is substantial to high.
- Wear a mask when you return to school on days 6-10 following isolation or quarantine.
- People who are exposed but exempt from quarantine, wear a mask for 10 days.
- Individuals who cannot or choose not to wear a mask, complete the 10 day quarantine or isolation period.

### **Masking for School Staff and Students on Buses**

- Students and staff are still required to wear a mask on public transportation.  
\*According to [Federal Order](#)
- Employees are required to wear a mask during high to substantial transmission.  
\*According to [DOLI Standards](#). Page 14-15.

### **Contact Tracing**

- Schools are no longer expected to contact trace every individual positive case.
- Schools should contact families when there is a known positive case.
- Schools will notify groups of students when there is a possible exposure.

### **Outbreaks**

- Schools will monitor known cases and when there is at least 10% of a specified student or staff group that are positive and connected it will be reported to VDH as an outbreak.
- Schools **will contact trace** when there is a defined outbreak.
- Schools will consult with the VDH to make recommendations to reduce the transmission and prevent spread.

### **Quarantine and Isolation**

- VDH recommends 5 day isolation or quarantine.
- Return on day 6 with no fever and resolving symptoms, must wear a mask on days 6-10.
- When students are reported to have a close contact (exposed at home to a positive case), quarantine for 5 days is recommended. Return on days 6-10.
- A helpful [flowchart](#) can be found here.