



School News

May 2, 2022

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Identifying and Reporting Potential Communicable Disease Outbreaks

The priority for COVID reporting to the KCHD has changed from individual cases to potential outbreaks. A school outbreak is defined as:

- Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a specified core group (e.g., extracurricular activity, cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.)

or,

- At least three cases within a specified core group that meets criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case (laboratory-positive by PCR or antigen testing) with symptom onset or positive test within 14 calendar days of each other; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting outside of the school setting (e.g., household); and that are epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned activity.

Potential outbreaks must be reported to KCHD. To report, go to: redcap.link/kaneschoolreport

Once you select your building type, you can indicate if you are reporting an outbreak for us to review. If you select "Yes," a line list spreadsheet is made available where you can record cases and return to us for review. For more information, download our [Outbreak Toolkit for Kane County Schools](#).

Returning a *complete* line list or REDCap report helps us to identify outbreaks and trends. Missing information results in the need to contact the reporter for more information and increases the time it takes to identify outbreaks. We have recently modified the form to reduce the reporting burden. Please fill out all fields of the line list or REDCap report. We appreciate your cooperation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Case and outbreak data will no longer be accepted via email. Cases and outbreaks must be reported via the REDcap link above.

Masking in Schools Remains Important Mitigation Layer

While many districts have made masking optional, there are two important instances where masking is required:

1. The school healthcare office is classified as a healthcare setting, and occupants (staff and visitors) are federally mandated to mask at all times regardless of immunization status. For more information, see [Code of Federal Regulations \(section 3, i\)](#).
2. Staff or students who opt to return to school following isolation or quarantine must mask on days 6-10. Otherwise, they should isolate or quarantine the full 10 days per [IDPH/ISBE guidelines](#).

Preparing for COVID Surges

While Community COVID Levels are currently low, it's still important to be prepared for a potential COVID surge when school resumes for the 2022-2023 school year. IDPH and ISBE recommend the following when developing your surge emergency plan:

- Ensure adequate testing supplies are readily available
- Ensure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), including NIOSH-approved respirators (N95 and KN95 masks) or other masks that meet the Barrier Face Covering Standard, are readily available
- Include a method to anticipate/calculate daily PPE usage or burn rates and significant changes that may occur related to a surge
- Ensure compliance with infection control procedures including updated staff trainings
- Ensure compliance with case reporting requirements and handling of cases of COVID-19 and their close contacts. Schools should plan to maintain at least a 10-week supply of PPE and testing supplies and should continue to engage in preparedness activities.

More information is available [here](#).



Do you have questions for the KCHD School Team? Email us at: school@co.kane.il.us