



2021-2022 OPENING PLAN (GUIDELINES)



MISSION

The Lowellville Local School District will educate, empower and challenge our students to reach their individual potentials by providing an environment where tradition, community and excellence create productive members of a global society.

HEALTH AND PREVENTION GUIDANCE FOR THE 2021- 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Lowellville Local Schools will return to daily, in-person instruction for the 2021- 2022 school year on **Monday, August 23, 2021**. The following information shares how Lowellville Schools will navigate returning to standard operations following the revised health orders.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Schools will use layered mitigation strategies for the health and safety of the Lowellville Community.

Face Masks

Lowellville Schools will follow the Mahoning County Department of Health, CDC, Ohio Department of Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Ohio Department of Education guidance, which **strongly recommends** that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face mask while in school. Parents and individuals will have the option to have their children wear face masks while in school or participating in school activities.

Physical Distancing

Individuals will be physically distanced by three feet when possible.

PPE

Desk and table sneeze guards will be available for students and staff upon request, including in the school cafeteria.

Hand Washing/Hand Sanitizing

Increased hand washing will continue to be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer will continue to be placed in classrooms and throughout the buildings. Students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands throughout the day.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Routine cleaning protocols will continue throughout all school buildings and buses.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Lowellville Schools continues to encourage our community to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The Ohio Department of Health provides information on the benefits of the vaccine in a school environment.

TRANSPORTATION

Students who registered for Lowellville Schools transportation may ride their assigned bus for the 2021-2022 school year.

Face Masks

Per federal requirement, face masks are **mandatory** to be worn by all students, staff, and school bus drivers while on the bus.

Hand Sanitizing

Hand sanitizer will be available on all school buses.

Assigned Seats

Students will have an assigned seat and will be seated up to the bus capacity.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Each bus will continue to be cleaned and disinfected daily.

BUILDING PROTOCOLS

The K-12 School will return to standard mitigation strategies, with necessary enhancements for the health and safety of the Lowellville community.

Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers will be permitted into school buildings, determined by the building principal.

Water Fountains/Water Bottles

Water fountains will be open and water bottles, if needed, can be filled at the fountains.

FOOD SERVICE

All enrolled Lowellville students are eligible to receive FREE breakfast and FREE lunch for the 2021-2022 school year through United States Department of Agriculture waivers.

Cafeteria Seating

In order to provide sufficient information for contact tracing, preschool, elementary and middle school students will sit at a maximum of six per table.

Hand Sanitizing

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer before lunch periods.

HEALTH AT SCHOOL

Self-Assessment

Everyone is encouraged to do a self-assessment before entering a Lowellville facility. Please refer to the COVID-19 symptoms listed by the **Ohio Department of Health**.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms should not enter a Lowellville facility.

What To Do When Your Child Is Sick

What to do when your child is sick: Families should follow the previously established illness guidelines in the student handbooks.

CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE

Lowellville Schools will follow the Ohio Department of Health contact tracing and isolation and quarantine protocols.

Contact Tracing

The Mahoning County Health Department requires contact tracing for highly infectious diseases. The District nurse and administration have been trained in this process. Diagnostic and screening testing will continue to be available at the nurse's clinic.

Reporting COVID-19 Cases

Staff members and students should continue to report symptoms and positive COVID-19 test results. Our schools are required to report known cases to the MCDOH for anyone physically in our buildings. As is the current MCDOH policy, fully vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine if exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual unless symptoms are present. Otherwise a mask must be worn according to the quarantine chart.

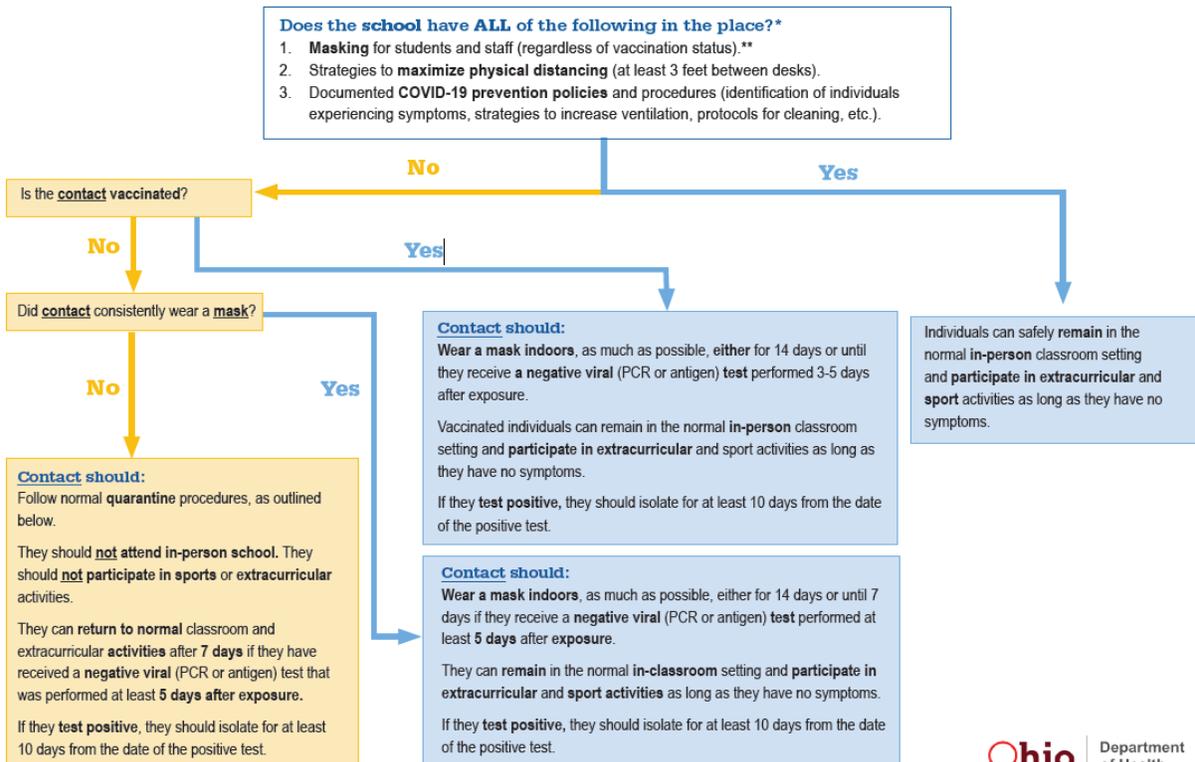
District Notifications

The communications team will follow the District's communicable disease notification process, and notify impacted classrooms and/or buildings when needed. The communicable disease notification process is set forth by MCDOH based on the Classification of Reportable Infectious Diseases in Ohio (ORC 3701-3), which sets a threshold of number of cases each illness must hit within a classroom or building in order to trigger a notification of possible exposure.

Quarantine

Lowellville Schools and the MCDOH are responsible for quarantining individuals who have come into close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19. Wearing masks keep children in school, since unvaccinated students who are not wearing a mask face a much greater risk of quarantine if they are exposed to a positive case of COVID-19. Students who are not wearing a mask also risk sending other students home to quarantine even if their classmate is wearing a mask. View the [Ohio Department of Health](#) flowchart below with guidelines for quarantine after exposure.

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.

Ohio Department of Health

This document was developed in collaboration of several stakeholder groups and aligns with the Mahoning County Health Department, CDC guidelines, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Ohio Department of Health.

This is a working document. Any changes will be made in accordance to changing health recommendations, state guidelines, or district needs determined by the Superintendent of Schools. Also, these guidelines were developed for today and knowingly, at any given date and/or time throughout the school year, an increased outbreak and/or spike in numbers and/or local infection(s) can change the status of the guidelines including but not limited to the switch of modality to remote learning. PLEASE, read this plan regularly for any changes and feel free to call Superintendent Dr. Eugene Thomas at 330-536-6318 ext. 148 if you have any questions.