K-12 COVID-19 Update

July 18, 2022
COVID-19 Cases by Date* through July 14, 2022**, Mississippi

**Cases — 7 Day Average**

*Date: date of onset, test collection or report to MSDH, updated as case is investigated.
**Based on available data as of 6pm CT.
*** Illnesses that began during the latest 14 days may not yet be reported.
COVID-19 LTCF* and Non-LTCF Deaths by Date of Death through July 14, 2022**, Mississippi

- Resident of LTCF Deaths
- Non-Resident of LTCF Deaths — 7 Day Average

*LTCF is Long Term Care Facility and includes Nursing Homes, ICF-IID, Assisted Living, and Personal Care Homes
**Based on available data as of 3pm CT
***7 day average not included for the latest 7 days due to possible delays in reporting.
MSDH recommends that K-12 settings in Mississippi follow the most current COVID-19 guidance from CDC

- [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC](#)
- [Overview of COVID-19 Isolation for K-12 Schools | COVID-19 | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](#)
CDC Guidance for K-12 Schools

• Staying Up To Date on Vaccinations
• Staying Home When Sick
• Ventilation Systems
• Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
• Cleaning and Disinfection
• Masking (Universal indoor mask use is recommended at a high COVID-19 Community Level)
• Testing
• Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (if done, isolation and quarantine are the focus)
  • If a school is unable to continue contact tracing (e.g., staffing issues) MSDH recommends K-12 schools prioritize the identification and isolation/exclusion of COVID-19 positive individuals to minimize transmission.
COVID-19 Community Levels
Mississippi Specific Guidance

Components of the MS Specific Guidance

• Isolation, Contact Tracing and Quarantine--As staffing in the K-12 setting allows. Focus should be on identifying and excluding ill individuals if a school is unable to perform contact tracing.

• Vaccination: Adopt-a-School Program

• Testing
MSDH Testing Initiatives

• Option 1: Schools are provided tests and conduct their school screening testing or postexposure testing themselves

• Option 2: Schools may choose to utilize the MSDH testing vendor who will conduct the weekly school screening testing for the school

• Option 3: In addition to Options 1 and 2, MSDH will provide schools with Home Tests which the school will distribute to students and staff for screening testing or post-exposure testing
Option 1

- Weekly screening of all interested asymptomatic teachers, staff, or students, including during school sponsored extracurricular activities
- **Discontinue Quarantine:** test asymptomatic students/teachers and staff who are on quarantine at day 5 of their quarantine period. If the individual tests negative, they may return to the school setting after 5 days of quarantine. The individual must continue to mask for an additional 5 days. Or,

- **Test to Stay:** test asymptomatic students/teachers and staff on day 1, 3, and 5 after exposure. If the individual remains asymptomatic, tests negative, and strictly adheres to mask use for the ten days following exposure the individual can remain in the school setting during this time.

- Schools are reimbursed for each test performed for the purpose of routine screening.
For Option 1

• Must report all positive and negative tests conducted through Simple Report
• CLIA Certificate of Waiver
• Complete the online Testing Application and sign the agreement
Option 2

MSDH has contracted with a testing vendor (Maverick Health) to conduct statewide COVID-19 school screening testing only. Maverick Health will be contacting each school district via mass communication and individual web meetings/conference calls to determine school district/school participation.

To enroll in vendor-conducted school-based testing, or for questions about this option, please contact Maverick Health or MSDH at the addresses below:

- MSK12@mav.health
- COVIDSchoolReporting@msdh.ms.gov
Option 3

• Home tests
• Weekly screening
• Discontinue quarantine
• Test to Stay
Questions