While great strides have been made in controlling the spread of COVID-19, the virus remains a threat, and the ongoing health and safety of K-12 students and staff remains paramount. There is always some level of risk in any activity during a pandemic. However, our goal is to keep students in school, in-person, five days a week. Students benefit cognitively, emotionally, and developmentally from in-person learning. Yellow Springs Schools are eager to welcome students safely back in-person!

The following health and safety protocols reflect guidance contained in the COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools document, released jointly by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), as well as guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on July 27, 2021, and revised ODH Guidelines for Quarantine released on August 6, 2021. Yellow Springs Schools will deploy all layered levels of protection as recommended by the CDC to the greatest extent possible.

We ask for your patience and cooperation through these challenging times.

*Pending BOE approval August 19, 2021*
People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks following the final dose in a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

Yellow Springs Schools has a high percentage of vaccinated teachers and staff (currently at 95%). Our current vaccination percentage for eligible students aged 12 and older is high but not yet 100%. Yellow Springs Schools will continue to partner with Greene County Public Health to promote and offer vaccinations for all eligible children and adults.

Vaccinations

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The disease can spread rapidly among individuals who are not fully vaccinated and result in serious illness or death. Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students, teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely conduct in-person learning and allow safe participation in extracurricular activities and sports.

A vaccination clinic will be held at YSHS on Friday, August 20, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for any student, staff, or community member still in need of a vaccine. Additional vaccine clinics, particularly when our younger students are eligible, will be offered. Please check school communication for dates and sign-up information.
Masking

Wearing masks protects students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Wearing masks has been proven to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets that are created when people talk, laugh, sing, cough and sneeze.

Due to a federal CDC order for public transportation (which includes school buses), masks are required on all public transportation regardless of vaccination status.

In general mask use is not necessary when outdoors, including when participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities. However, in areas of substantial to high transmission of COVID-19 and the Delta variant, it is recommended that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve close contact with other unvaccinated individuals.

Yellow Springs Schools will start the 2021-2022 school year with a universal mask requirement for all adults and students regardless of vaccination status. Students should bring their own mask every day. The mask requirement will continue until health guidance regarding masks changes.
Monitor Daily Health

It is essential that all staff and students perform daily health checks at home prior to coming to school. Parents and family members it is critical for you to monitor your children for possible symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone in Yellow Springs Schools with symptoms or a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit should stay home. Yellow Springs Schools will monitor daily absences of students and staff for possible trends. Testing is recommended for individuals who exhibit symptoms. Please check the flowchart for quarantines to determine when testing is required.

You may have COVID-19 if you experience one or more of the following:

- Fever or chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.
- Repeated shaking with chills.

Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.
- COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that is highly transmissible by air. Improving ventilation is a critical intervention that can help slow the spread of the virus.
- In summer 2020, Yellow Springs Schools purchased a Medify AirX M25 air filtration unit for every classroom, learning space, cafeteria, and office. Each unit covers 500 square feet. Larger spaces have multiple units. Filters for these units are changed regularly per manufacturer’s guidelines.
- Staff members are encouraged to keep windows and doors open when safe and possible to maximize ventilation. Staff and students are encouraged to have class and lunch outside when possible.

- The district will use EPA sanitizers and cleaners effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), and appropriate cleaning supplies will continue to be available in every classroom.
- Cleaning and sanitization of high-touch areas (tables, door handles, etc.) will occur frequently.
- Restroom facilities will be cleaned approximately every two hours during the school day. Touchless paper towel dispensers are available in every restroom.
- Water fountains will not be available for use during the 2021-2022 school year. The district has installed, where possible, water bottle fillers for student use. Students should bring a refillable water bottle every day.

- Ensuring Ohio students have access to in-person learning remains a priority, and schools in which not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible. This should not hinder student participation in in-person learning.
- The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students. When this is not possible, layered mitigation techniques such as indoor masking, improved ventilation, regular cleaning, frequent hand washing, attention to symptoms and illness, and testing play a huge part in preventing the spread of the disease.
- During lunch, physical distance should be maximized to the extent possible in the food service line and eating areas.
Music & Extracurriculars

- Music classes and school-sponsored extracurricular activities can help students learn and achieve, and support social, emotional, and mental health. Due to increased exhalation that occurs during singing or playing of musical instruments, there may be greater risk of exposure to those students who are not fully vaccinated.
- Yellow Springs Schools has purchased special masks for students to use when singing and playing a musical instrument. These will be used as part of the regular coursework. As often as practicable, classes will occur outdoors.
- Elementary music classes will sing on a limited basis.
- Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested.
- The district’s universal mask policy applies to all school-sponsored extra-curricular activities.

Athletics

- All Yellow Springs Schools athletes will comply with the universal mask-policy when not on the playing field.
- Coaches will remain masked indoors, and outdoors when face-to-face with student athletes.
- Student-athletes should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested.
- The use of social distancing to the extent possible is recommended during indoor sports.

From COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools (Updated July 2021)
Click here to read the full report
MODIFIED QUARANTINE POLICIES
(Ohio Department of Health August 6, 2021)

Quarantine is not necessary for students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 in K-12 school settings, regardless of vaccination status, if ALL the following prevention measures have been in place:

- Masking for students and staff (regardless of vaccination status).
- Physical distancing is maximized (at least 3 feet between desks).
- Documented COVID-19 prevention policies (e.g., identification of individuals experiencing symptoms, strategies to increase ventilation, protocols for cleaning, etc.).

For FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS, if not all prevention measures listed above were in place, quarantine is not necessary provided they adhere to the following precautions:

- Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or until a viral (PCR or antigen) test performed three to five days after exposure has come back as negative.
- Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure; unless symptoms develop, individuals can continue attending in-person classes and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.
- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate away from others and be evaluated/tested for COVID-19.
- Those with positive test results should isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).

For INDIVIDUALS NOT FULLY VACCINATED, if not all prevention measures listed above were in place, quarantine is not necessary provided the person who was exposed was wearing a face mask consistently and correctly and physical distancing was maintained. However, they should take the following precautions:

- Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or 7 days if they receive a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test performed at least five days after exposure. While this negative result would allow them to discontinue masking in school after day seven, YSS has a universal mask policy.
- Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure; unless symptoms develop, individuals can continue attending in-person classes and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.
- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate away from others and be evaluated/tested for COVID-19.
- Those with positive test results should isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).

Click here to read the full guidance from the Ohio Department of Health

GUIDELINES FOR QUARANTINE AFTER EXPOSURE IN K-12 CLASSROOM SETTINGS
GUIDELINES FOR QUARANTINE AFTER EXPOSURE IN K-12 CLASSROOM SETTINGS
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VISIT YSSCHOOLSD.ORG
OR CONTACT YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION