

# CUYAHOGA COUNTY

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# BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

## Frequently Asked Questions - July 9, 2020

*This document will be updated as new information becomes available.*

### ***Social Distancing and Face Coverings***

1. The World Health Organization indicates social distancing as 3 feet, rather than 6 feet. Can districts follow the WHO guidelines in creating social distance within the classrooms?

***Whenever possible, try to achieve the 6 feet social distancing with the face coverings for the two barriers of protection. A minimum of 3 feet of social distancing plus a face covering should be maintained. Options such as desk barriers that are cleanable and durable may also be used in addition to the face coverings when spacing is not achievable.***

2. The state guidelines do not require face coverings for students, but highly recommend them for students in grades 3-12. Are face coverings less essential if students are socially distant, whether 3 or 6 feet apart?

***Whenever possible, schools should try to utilize two barriers to the spread of COVID-19 by both social distancing and requiring face coverings for children over the age of 10. Younger children should be social distanced and have face coverings whenever possible.***

3. If students are wearing face coverings, is it less essential that students are socially distant?

***No***

4. The state guidance does not indicate a maximum number of students on school buses. Does the county have a maximum number of students per seat on a bus if students are wearing face coverings?

***We have not established a percentage of maximum capacity or maximum number of students per bus. We are recommending only one student per seat unless families will be seated together.***

5. Would teachers still be required to wear face coverings if they are standing at the front of the room teaching and consistently socially distant from front row of desks?

***Yes, all workers in all businesses are required to wear face coverings to protect their customers/students. It is important for adults to set a good example for students.***

6. For students or staff who cannot wear facemasks for medical or special needs reasons, what can we do to protect those individuals as well as the others around them?

***Face shields – nose to chin covered just like a mask***

***Plexiglas barriers – banks and convenient stores***

***N95 with a disposable paper mask are the best combination***

7. Is there a set form to submit for staff members that have medical documentation excluding them from wearing a face covering?

***No***

8. Is there anything specific that needs to be included in a school districts face covering policy?

***Include options – cloth, N95, face shields, disposable***

***Set parameters about where and when to wear one***

***Nurses and Environmental Services must follow OSHA guidelines***

9. When there is a countywide face covering protocol due to a threat level of red or higher, such as in Cuyahoga County, should the district follow its own district policy or the county mandate?

***At a minimum, follow the county mandate. Your own policy can be followed if it is stricter than the county's policy.***

### ***Health Assessments and Protocols***

10. Will schools be required to conduct an active health assessment of all students and staff when they arrive at school, including temperatures, or is a passive self-assessment by parents (for students) and staff acceptable?

***We recommend that schools and parents both conduct daily assessments.***

***The options are:***

- ***a protocol for parents which includes temperature-taking***
- ***a protocol where schools provide the health screening/temperature check***
- ***a protocol that both the family and school provide the screening/temperature check***

11. Can you provide us with a checklist for health assessments which references those who are showing symptoms, as well as the process to share with the Board of Health?

***Go to our website at [www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net) and look for COVID-19 School Guidance under C in the A-Z index.***

12. The state guidance notes that anyone developing symptoms should be given a face covering, removed from others in a room separate from the regular school clinic and sent home. What are the steps a school and individual should take when:

- a. Student exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID
  - ***The student should be quarantined for 14 days.***  
***Consult a primary care provider.***
- b. Staff member(s) exposed to someone with positive COVID test
  - ***The staff member should be quarantined for 14 days.***  
***Consult a primary care provider***
- c. Student has positive COVID test
  - ***The student should be isolated for a minimum of 10 days.***  
***Only return to school after 3 consecutive days with no fever without the use of a fever-reducing medication.***
- d. Staff member has positive COVID test
  - ***The staff member should be isolated for a minimum of 10 days.***  
***Only return to school after 3 consecutive days with no fever without the use of a fever-reducing medication***

13. How long should a school close for a positive test of a student?

***There may not be a need to do so.***

14. Will the Board of Health order a school to be closed?

***No***

## **Facilities**

- 15.** Can students clean surfaces themselves (i.e. desks, counters) as a part of the building cleaning protocol?

***Not recommended – it is a safety issue depending on age and capabilities.***

***If the product label does not indicate a caution like “keep out of reach of children” or some other high toxicity warning, and the child is responsible, then the student may be able to help, but this is still not recommended.***

- 16.** Do drinking fountains need to be closed? What about water refill stations that are no-touch?

***Drinking fountains should be closed. No-touch filling stations can be used but should be routinely disinfected in case users touch them.***

- 17.** Can a school gather students in the cafeteria for lunch? Are there specific requirements for doing so?

***They are to follow the same requirements as any other dining facility. Refer to the Dine Safe Ohio guidance.***

- 18.** With the school building closure expiring July 7, can buildings now be open for summer activities, such as registrations, providing services or evaluations for students with special needs, or summer learning during the summer? Are there any special requirements to do this beyond the just released ODH guidance?

***New school orders have not been issued. Though buildings are open, the five basic tenants of COVID-19 prevention must be implemented and strictly followed:***

- ***Disinfection and cleaning of high-touch surfaces***
- ***Facial coverings***
- ***Hand hygiene***
- ***Health screenings***
- ***Social distancing***

- 19.** Are there any specific PPE and thermometers (types or brands) that will be required of schools?

***Gloves, masks, face shields, wipes, sanitizer/disinfectant, thermometers, N95 masks for the nurse and physician.***

***No specific brand is required. Products should be appropriate for the intended application and used according to their label instructions.***

**20.** What guidance will be given around the use of student and staff restrooms?

***Clean and disinfect often. Wear gloves and masks when cleaning.***

### ***Special Education and Preschools***

21. Do you have any additional guidance or updates on state guidance for district preschools beyond the child care sector requirements from the Governor?

***Not yet***

22. When needed, how can we assist kids with toileting and feeding and other self-care needs while maintaining social distancing?

***Follow PPE guidelines – must be diligent with hand hygiene and surface disinfection. Remember to wash the child’s hands as well.***

### ***Compliance***

23. Since the Board of Health is not approving school plans, how will compliance be monitored or determined, especially for the state guidelines that indicate *to the extent possible* as the standard?

***Self-policing is the only practical way for these policies to work. CCBH will be available to answer questions and offer guidance about public health concerns. Since you are most knowledgeable about your students, faculty and facility, it is imperative that your district design and maintain the plan.***