

Why We Still Need to Talk About COVID-19

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October 7, 2021



Summer 2021



"Unfinished Learning"



Fall 2021

Confirmed cases by age group by date of symptom onset or diagnosis
Updated 9/24/2021

Select a measure
of cases
Rate
(Cases in cases per 100,000 residents)

Weekly case number by age group
(Cases in cases per 100,000 residents)

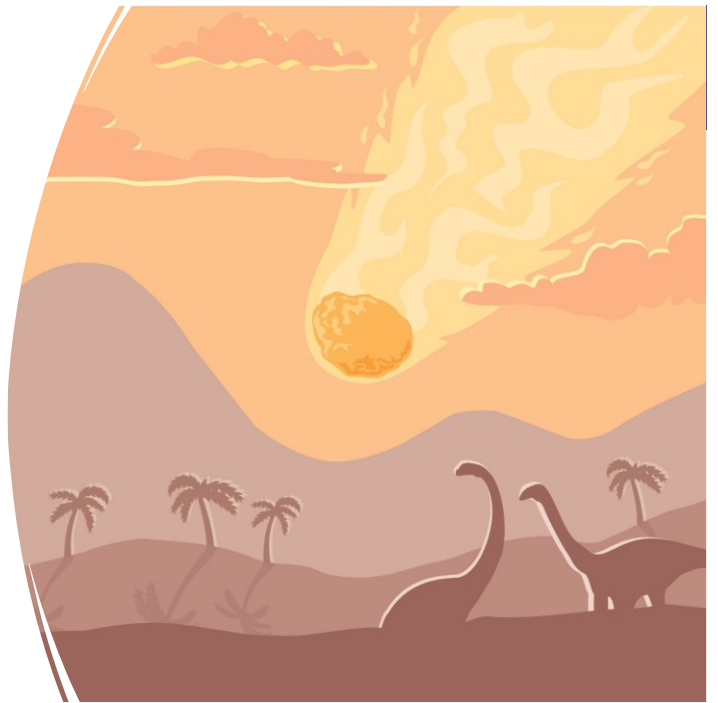
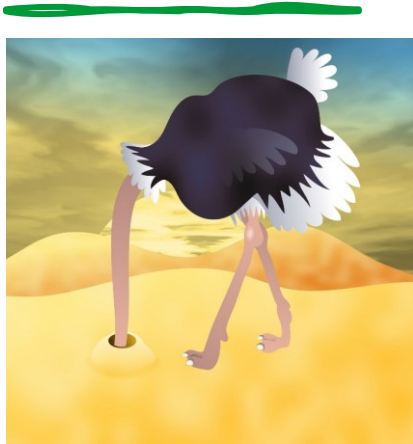
Age group
0-18
19-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65-74
75+

Click on an age group to highlight the line graphs on the right.

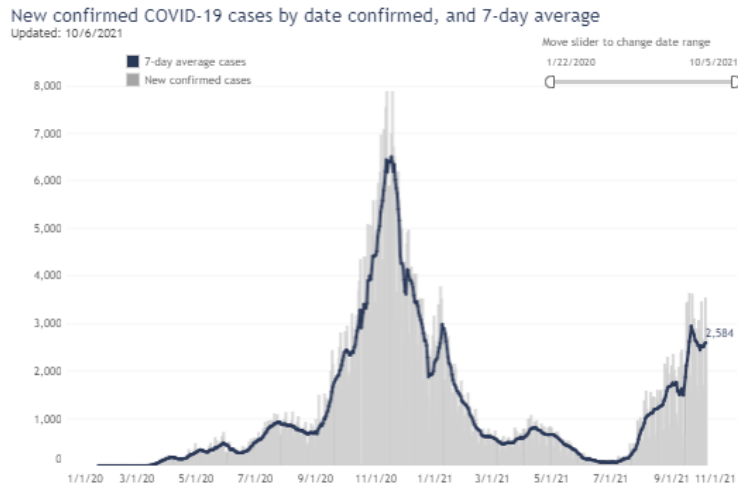
5-19 cases by date confirmed, and 7-day average
Age group: 5-19
Confirmed cases
7-day average

The collage features several key elements: a line graph showing weekly case numbers by age group from August to September 2021; a photograph of a protest with signs such as 'BAPS BAPS SHUT US DOWN', 'NO MASKS NO SHIRT NO SERVICE', and 'STATE OF WI'; a photograph of a classroom with a teacher and students; a photograph of a crowd of people, many wearing purple shirts and face masks; a map of Wisconsin with counties highlighted in red; and a line graph showing the 7-day average of 5-19 cases from August to September 2021.

What the 2021/2022 school year feels like to me as a school nurse

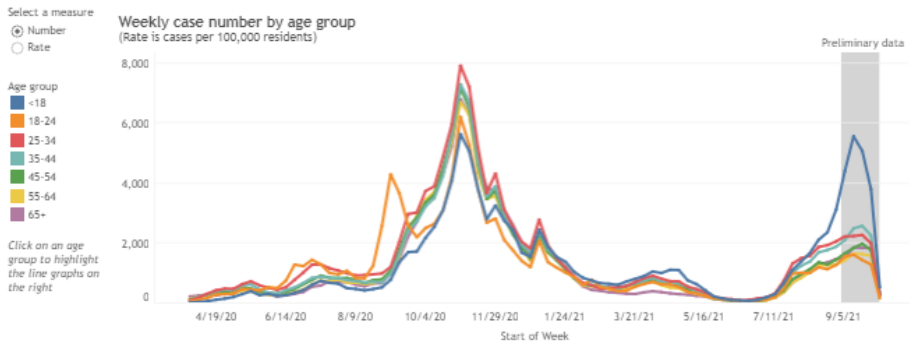


- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases.htm>



<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases.htm> Cases by age group

Confirmed cases by age group by date of symptom onset or diagnosis
Updated: 10/6/2021



Youth Cases

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/cases.htm>

Confirmed cases by youth age group by date of symptom onset or diagnosis

Updated: 10/6/2021

Select a measure

Number

Rate

Weekly case number by youth age group
(Rate is cases per 100,000 residents)

Age Group

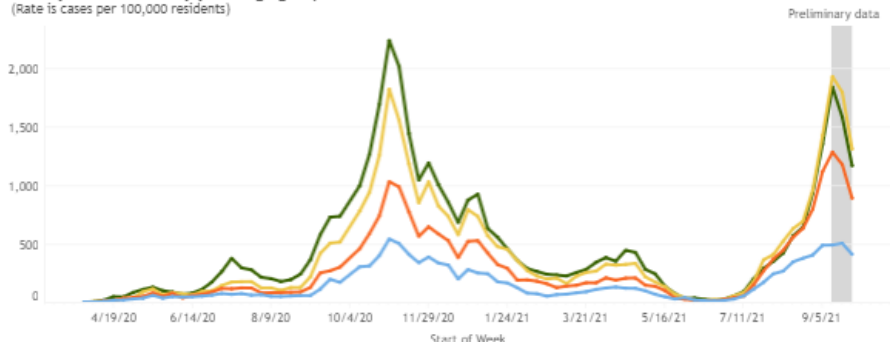
0-3

4-8

9-13

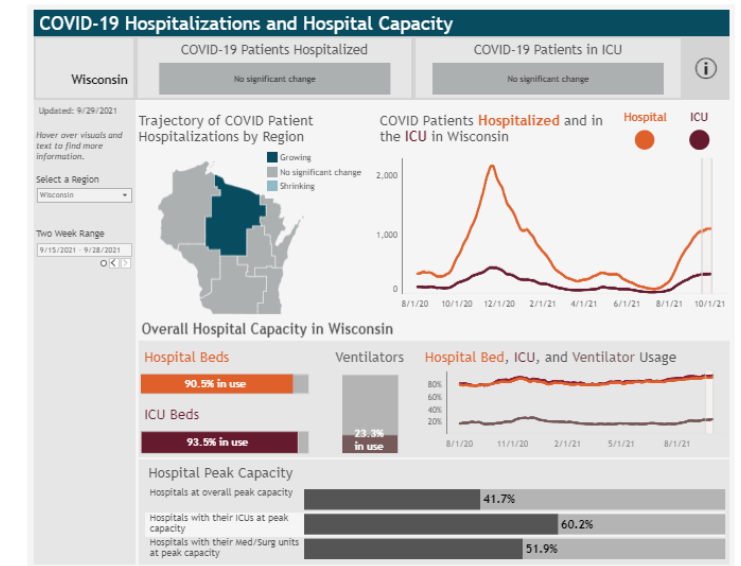
14-17

Click on an age group to highlight the line graphs on the right



Hospital Bed and ICU Capacity

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/hosp-data.htm>

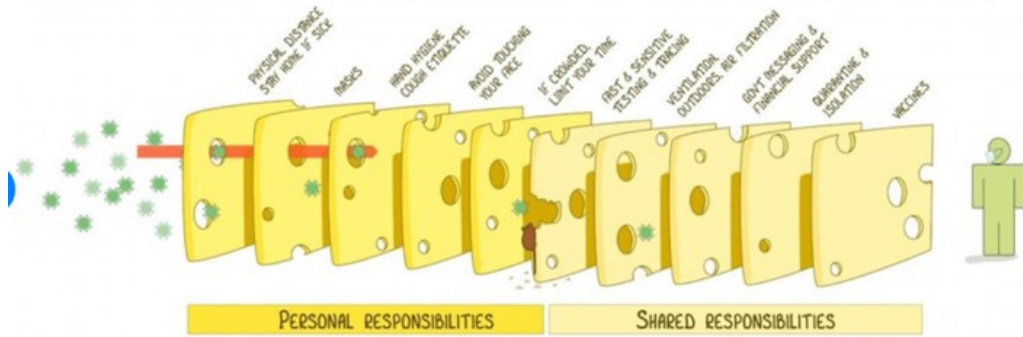


Layered Mitigation Measures

CDC's [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) continues to stress the consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools.

THE SWISS CHEESE RESPIRATORY VIRUS PANDEMIC DEFENCE

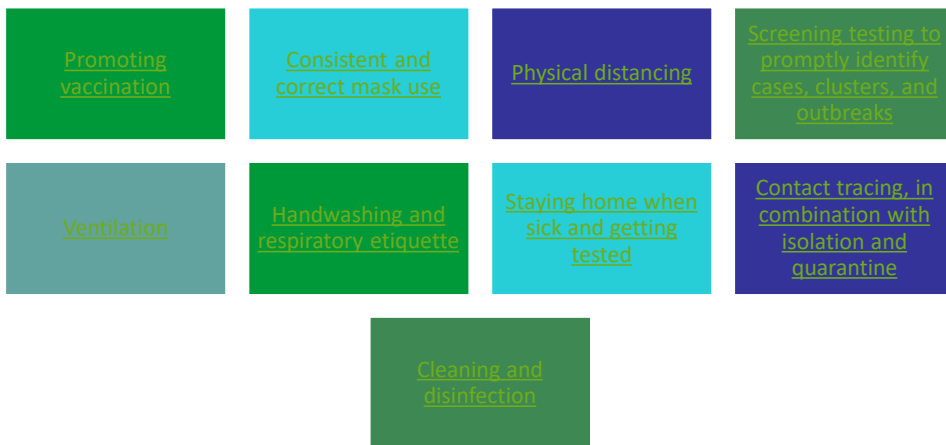
RECOGNISING THAT NO SINGLE INTERVENTION IS PERFECT AT PREVENTING SPREAD



EACH INTERVENTION (LAYER) HAS IMPERFECTIONS (HOLES).
MULTIPLE LAYERS IMPROVE SUCCESS.

Jim O'Rourke
VIRUS@FORWARD.ORG
WITH THANKS TO JEFF LAMAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ILM OF ILD
BASED ON THE SWISS CHEESE MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION BY SWISS T. REASON 1990
VERSION 3.0
UPDATE: 24OCT2020

Prevention Strategies



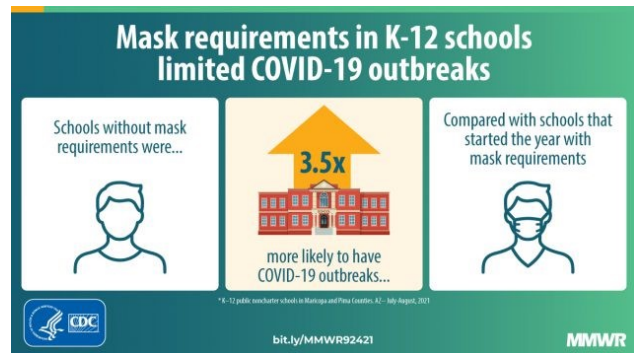
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

Association Between K-12 School Mask Policies and School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks – Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona, July- August 2021

Early Release / September 24, 2021 / 70

Megan Jehn, PhD; J. Mac McCullough,
PhD*; Ariella P. Dale, PhD; Matthew
Gue; Brian Eller; Theresa Cullen, MD;
Sarah E. Scott, D

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e1.htm?s_cid=mm7039e1_w



Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

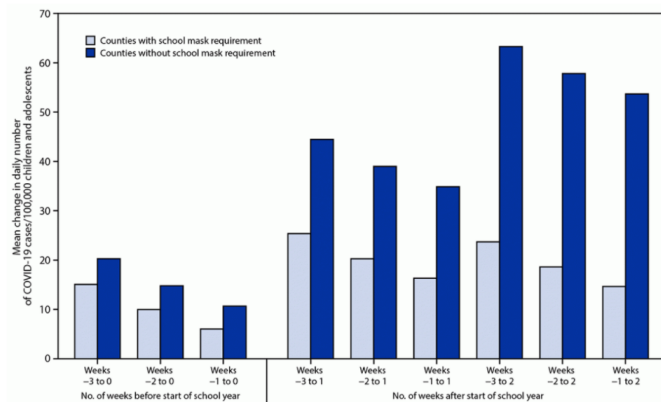
Pediatric COVID-19 Cases in Counties With and Without School Mask Requirements – United States, July 1–September 4, 2021

Early Release / September 24, 2021 / 70

Samantha E. Budzyn, MPH; Mark J. Panaggio, PhD; Sharyn E. Parks, PhD; Marc Papazian; Jake Magid; M Eng; Lisa C. Barrios, DrPH

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039e3.htm?s_cid=mm7039e3_w#F1_down

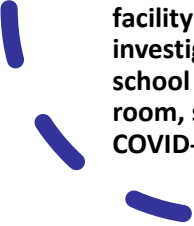
FIGURE. Mean county-level change in daily number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 children and adolescents aged <18 years in counties (N = 520) with and without school mask requirements* before and after the start of the 2021–22 school year — United States, July 1–September 4, 2021

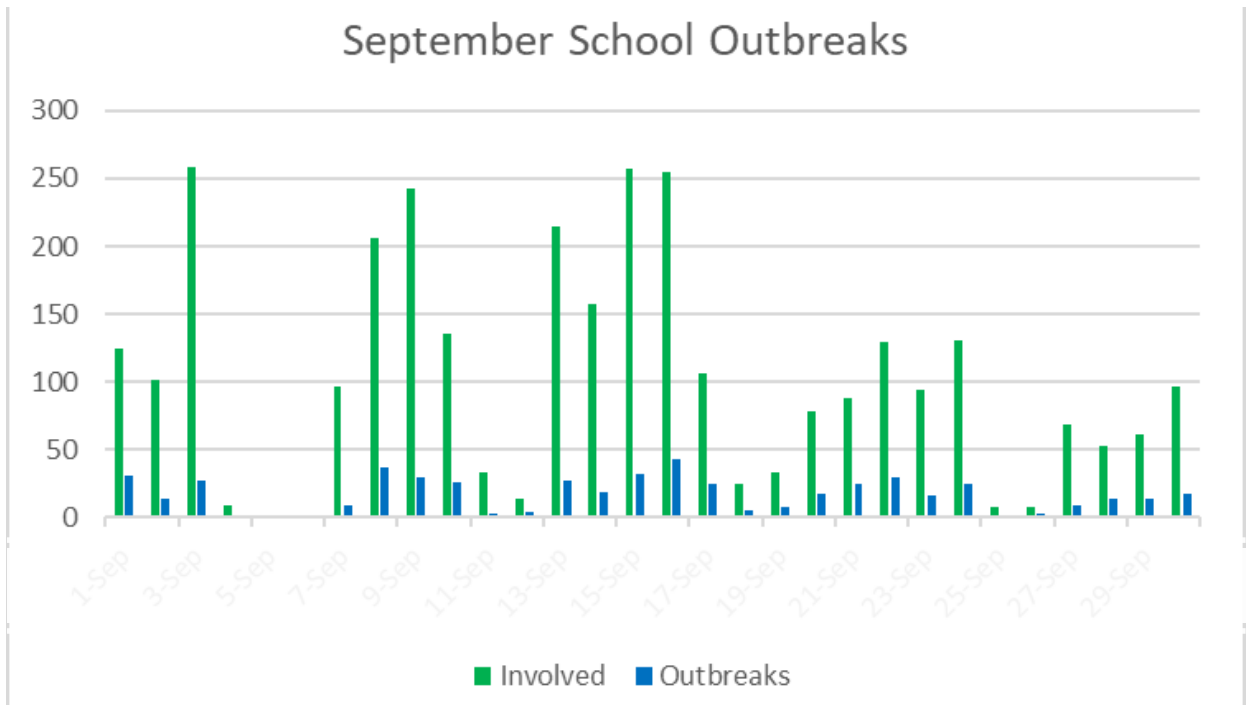


* Among 520 counties, 198 (38%) had a school mask requirement and 322 (62%) did not have a school mask requirement.

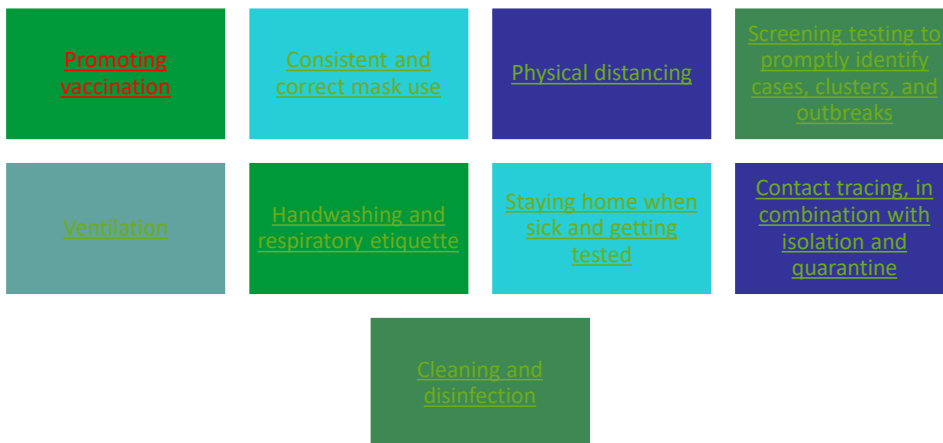


Wisconsin School Outbreaks-September 2021

- **Both suspected and confirmed outbreaks of COVID-19 in a school must be reported to the LTHD by law as soon as they are recognized (see Wisconsin Administrative Code Ch. s. DHS 145.04 (1)). For reporting purposes, a suspected outbreak of COVID-19 in a school is defined as the presence of at least two laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the same school building, with onset dates within 14 days of each other.**
 - **If two or more laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 are identified in the facility with onset dates within 14 days of each other, and the public health investigation identifies an epidemiologic link between the illnesses and the school (e.g., close contact occurred at school, multiple illnesses in the same room, shared staff member among cases), the outbreak is then a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak associated with the school.**
- 

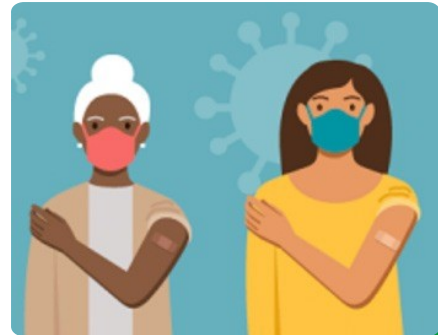


Prevention Strategies



Vaccine Boosters

- CDC recommends that people in the following groups should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completion of their 2-dose Pfizer series:
 - People ages 65 years and older
 - Adults 18+ living in long-term care settings
 - People ages 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#)
- People who may receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine booster include:
 - People ages 18–49 with an underlying medical condition
 - People ages 18–64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission due to working or residing in certain settings
- People can talk to their healthcare provider about whether getting a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot is appropriate for them. [Learn more.](#)



Student Vaccinations

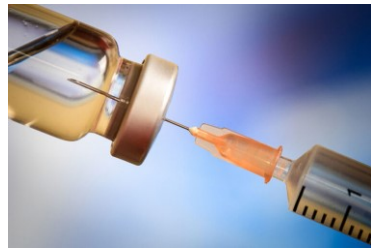
- COVID-19 vaccination will NOT be a “Required” vaccine
- If vaccines are approved for 5-11 year olds it will take several weeks to get children fully vaccinated (Pfizer vaccine spaced 3 weeks apart)
- What is your current student COVID vaccination rate? 12-18 years old students have had 4-7 months to choose to be vaccinated. (12-15= 46%; 16-18 = 52% statewide) Soon can sort by school district boundaries

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm>



Vaccine Promotion/Education

- **What is the school district's role in promoting COVID vaccination (as a way to end the pandemic, make being in school safer, trusted community messenger)?**



School Located Vaccination Clinics

- **Logistical Considerations for Hosting STUDENT School-located COVID Vaccinations Clinics (5.14.21)**

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Logistical_Considerations_for_Hosting_STUDENT_School-Located_COVID_Vaccination_Clinics.pdf

- **DHS is preparing for vaccination of children 5-11 years old**

Vaccine Communication Resources

[DPI **COVID-19 Vaccination for Educators Powerpoint**](#)


[DHS **COVID-19: Vaccine Partner Resources**](#)

[CDC **Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit**](#)

[CDC **COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for School Settings and Childcare Programs**](#)

Changes Warranted

- https://www.wasbo.com/images/WASBO/Documents/6/Handouts/2021-08-27-QA.pdf?_zs=bDu2c&_zl=AUij2
- Close contact student exemption
- Close contact quarantines



Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials Foundation
4787 Hayes Road - Suite 212 - Madison, WI 53704
608.248.6568 - 608.248.1414 fax
wasbo.com

Are We All Ready to Open the School House Doors?

Thirty (30) Common Questions and Answers for Wisconsin K-12 Administrators

The 2021-2022 school year is upon us, and school districts are once again inundated with challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Front and center remain issues related to masking, contact tracing, close-contact quarantines, local policy making and health officer orders, testing, and vaccination. Constantly evolving guidance from multiple sources, whether it be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the American Academy of Pediatrics ("AAP"), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services ("DHS"), or local health officers ("LHOs"), can lead to new questions or revive previously-settled issues. A road map to guide school district decision-making can be developed through application of a school board's inherent statutory authority, thoughtful board and district policies, and adherence to precedent.

WASBO has received numerous questions surrounding these topics and engaged in extensive discussions with many district stakeholders. We have relayed questions and challenges our members are facing with the School Law team at von Brannen & Esper, who agreed to team up with us to produce this piece. This Q & A overview seeks to provide further clarification and guidance to school districts related to the hot-button health and safety (and let's be clear—political) issues that continue to rattle the day, to allow school districts to safely and effectively return to school.

This overview is not intended to be legal advice nor should it replace conversations you have already had with your own lawyers. Please engage with your lawyers to make sure you are aware of the sometimes tricky legal questions our present circumstances reveal. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us or von Brannen.¹ And, as always, we love hearing from all of you regarding strategies for success—please feel free to share.

AUTHORITY FOR IMPLEMENTING MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Q1: Is a school district required to comply with guidance issued by the CDC, AAP, DHS, DHS, or any other federal or state authority?

A1: Generally speaking, no (from a purely legal standpoint.) The guidance issued by the CDC, AAP, DHS, DHS, or any other federal or state authority is just that...guidance. While a school district is not legally obligated to comply, as with all guidance, school districts should evaluate all information with an eye toward what is best for their school district based upon the information

¹ Contact information for the von Brannen School Law team can be found at <https://www.vonbrannen.com/contact-us/> or info@vonbrannen.com

CDC Updates

- **Close contact exception (Updated Sept. 21, 2021)**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>
- **Responding to COVID-19 Cases in K-12 Schools: Resources for School Administrators (Updated Sept. 29, 2021 contains decision tree)** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-contact-tracing/guide.html>
- **Overview of COVID-19 Quarantine for K-12 Schools (Updated October 4, 2021)** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-contact-tracing/about-quarantine.html>

Q. 14 in WASBO document

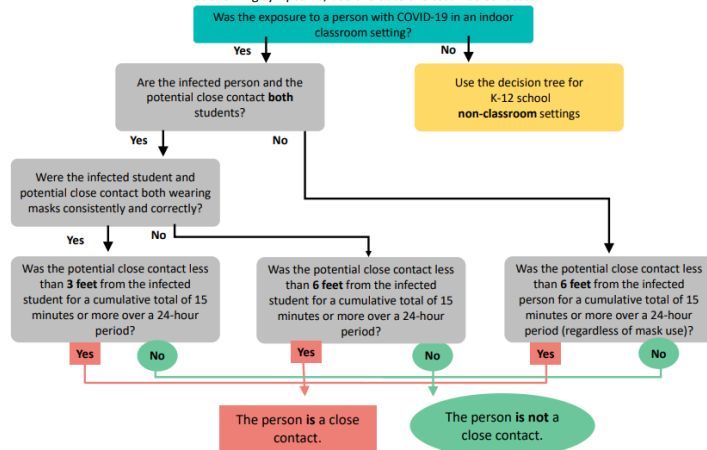
- **Close contact STUDENT exemption - added “or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e. holding class outdoors with educator supervision)”**
- **Close contact quarantines -added statements regarding someone who has recently (within 90 days) tested positive for COVID-19.**

Decision Tree for Identifying COVID-19 Close Contacts in K-12 School INDOOR CLASSROOM Settings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/docs/close-contact-decision-tree.pdf>

Decision Tree for Identifying COVID-19 Close Contacts in K-12 School INDOOR CLASSROOM Settings

Note: Complete this decision tree for students and adults in an indoor classroom setting who were within 6 feet of the infected person starting 2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test. If the infected person is not showing symptoms, use the date the test was collected.

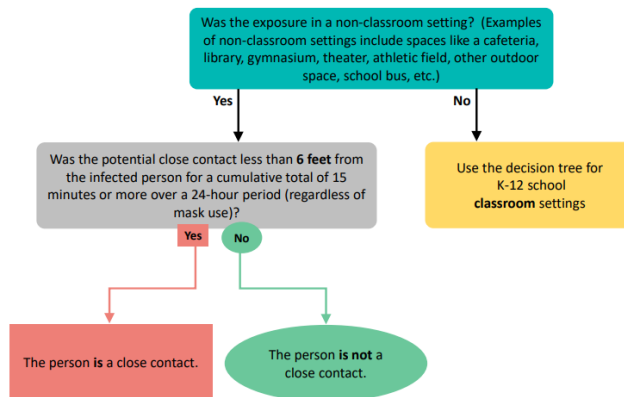


Decision Tree for Identifying COVID-19 Close Contacts in K-12 School NON-CLASSROOM Settings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/docs/close-contact-decision-tree.pdf>

Decision Tree for Identifying COVID-19 Close Contacts in K-12 School NON-CLASSROOM Settings

Note: Complete this decision tree for anyone in a non-classroom setting who was within 6 feet of the infected person starting 2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test. If the infected person is not showing symptoms, use the date the test was collected.



DPI Infection Control and Mitigation Resources

COVID-19 Information for School Health Services

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus/school-health-services-information>



DPI Guidance Updates

- ❑ COVID-19 Infection Control and Mitigation Measures for Wisconsin Schools 2021/2022 (updated September 30, 2021)
- ❑ https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspwp/pdf/DPI_Infection_Control_and_Mitigation_Measures_for_Schools.pdf
- ❑ PPE Considerations for Schools
https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspwp/pdf/PPE_Considerations_for_Schools.pdf

DPI's COVID-19 Infection Control and Mitigation Measures for Wisconsin Schools 2021/2022

- **September 30, 2021 revisions: p. 11 Added CDC's exception in the close contact definition for students in K-12 indoor classrooms setting or a structured outdoor setting.**
- **P. 11 Clarifies that **symptomatic fully vaccinated individuals** must quarantine or isolate.**
- **P. 11 Added statements regarding quarantining for someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19.**

DPI Guidance Updates



PPE Considerations for Schools (October 1, 2021)

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/PPE_Considerations_for_Schools.pdf

	Staff Working Closely with Student with No Known COVID-19	Potential Contact with Bodily Fluids	Staff Working with Student with Possible or Confirmed COVID-19
Cloth Facial Covering or Face Mask	Yes, recommended as source control for protection of staff	Yes, recommended as source control for protection of staff	Higher levels of protection should be used to protect staff*
Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask	Yes, recommended if student not wearing facial covering	Yes, required for protection for staff	Yes, recommended for protection for staff *
N95 or Higher Respirator or PAPR	Not required	Yes, recommended if staff performing procedures that aerosolize respiratory secretions such as, but not limited to open suctioning of airways, sputum induction, non-invasive ventilation (e.g., BIPAP, CPAP), manual ventilation. Fluid resistant surgical mask can be worn in lieu of respirator or PAPR when assisting with nebulizer treatments. See notes below.	Yes, recommended if staff performing procedures that aerosolize respiratory secretions such as, but not limited to open suctioning of airways, sputum induction, non-invasive ventilation (e.g., BIPAP, CPAP), manual ventilation. Also recommended if staff perform nebulizer treatments due to unknown risk. See notes below.
Protective Glasses or Goggles or Face Shield	Yes, recommended particularly if student not wearing facial covering or as a source control measure if viewing therapist's or staff member's face is crucial to activity.	Yes, for staff protection in conjunction with a fluid resistant surgical mask	Yes, for staff protection in conjunction with a fluid resistant surgical mask
Gloves	Not required	Yes, recommended for diaper changes, during feeding and anytime to prevent contact with body fluids.	Yes, required use whenever dictated by Standard/Universal Precautions.
Gown (Disposable)	Not required	Yes, required for protection for staff	Situation dependent
Lab Coat or Cloth Washable Covering (Scrub Jacket)	Not required	Yes, required if disposable is not an option	Situation dependent



EducationWeek

7 Mistakes Districts Have Made During the Pandemic

By Larry Ferlazzo – September 26, 2021

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-7-mistakes-districts-have-made-during-the-pandemic/2021/09?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=63798075&U=&UUID=f796f724eebc01cef35b27f4b7fcf981

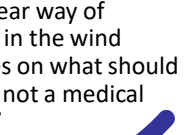


EducationWeek

Districts Are Leaning on Medical Advisors to Help With COVID Policies. It's Paying Off By Stephen Sawchuk — October 05, 2021

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/districts-are-leaning-on-medical-advisors-to-help-with-covid-policies-its-paying-off/2021/10?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eu&M=64036978&U=&UUID=f796f724eebc01cef35b27f4b7fcf981

“In a district like mine that is so incredibly and beautifully diverse, including diversity of thought, I would never be able to please everybody. So as a superintendent, I felt it was very important to have as much of a scientific and clear way of decision making so that I wouldn’t have to float in the wind based on politics or just the varying perspectives on what should be done,” she said. “And I am an educator; I am not a medical professional, nor am I a scientist in that regard.”



Reason for Hope

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-info.html>

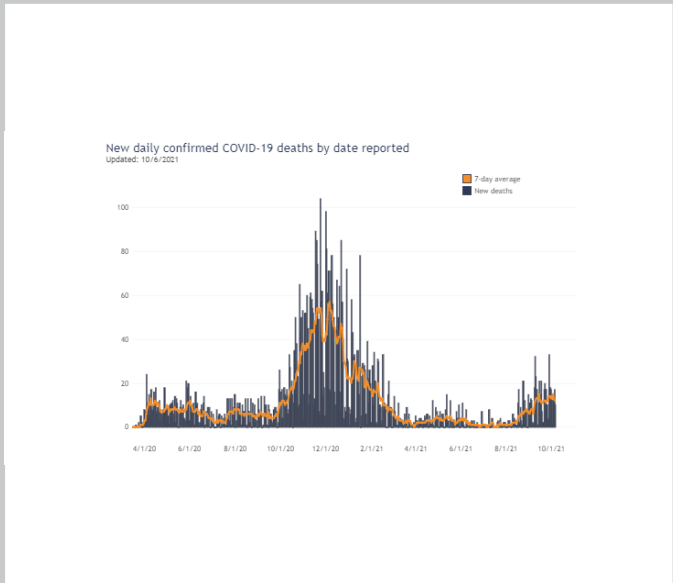
- ❑ Variants Being Monitored (VBM) – Several that were VOC are now labeled VBM
- ❑ Variant of Interest (VOI) – Currently, there are no SARS-CoV-2 variants that are designated as Variants of Interest
- ❑ Variant of Concern (VOC) – Currently Delta only one in U.S.
- ❑ Variant of High Consequence (VOHC) – Currently there are no SARS-CoV-2 variants that rise to the level of high consequence

Reason to Continue Prevention Measures





- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/deaths.htm>





Contact Information

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