



COVID-19 OUTBREAK TOOLKIT FOR KANE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Introduction

The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to working with Kane County schools to prioritize in-person learning and promote COVID-19 mitigation strategies. KCHD strongly supports the [CDC, IDPH, and ISBE guidelines for pre-K-12 schools](#).

We have developed the COVID-19 Outbreak Toolkit for Kane County Schools in an effort to assist school personnel in preventing, identifying, and reporting potential COVID-19 outbreaks.

Outbreak Criteria for Pre-k - 12 Schools

A school outbreak is defined as :

A. “multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a specified core group” (e.g., extracurricular activity, cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.)

– OR–

B. “at least three cases within a specified core group that meets criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case (laboratory-positive by PCR or antigen testing) with symptom onset or positive test within 14 calendar days of each other; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting outside of the school setting (e.g., household); and that are epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned activity.”

An example of Criteria A

- A high school has a junior varsity wrestling team with 20 athletes. The school nurse notices that 4 of the team members have tested positive in the past few days. None of the athletes report household exposure. Since >10% of this group are cases, this meets outbreak criteria A.

An example of Criteria B

- An elementary school has 4 cases in the same 5th grade classroom. Three of the students had known exposure to one another within the classroom. None of the students had household exposure or known social activity outside of the classroom. This example meets criteria B.

Tips for Identifying School Outbreaks

1. Review cases regularly.
2. Has there been a sudden increase in the number of cases at the school?
3. Look for links in the cases:
 - Same classroom(s)/office space(s) (e.g., the math department has 6 teachers who recently tested positive).
 - Review seating charts for proximity in the main classroom and specials (e.g., cases don't sit near each other in the main classroom but they do during art class).
 - Band/orchestra/choir (e.g., multiple cases are in the same 4th period choir class).
 - Sports (e.g., multiple cases on a swimming team).
 - Extracurricular activities (e.g., multiple cases are reported on the varsity cheer squad).
 - Bus routes (e.g., multiple cases are identified as riding on bus route 123).



Reporting a Potential School Outbreak to the Kane County Health Department

School personnel should promptly report a potential school outbreak at:

redcap.link/kaneschoolreport

Please make sure to complete the outbreak line list document included within the RedCap report. The line list is used for reporting to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and for managing the outbreak. Please see the screen shot of the RedCap Outbreak Reporting form below.

Case Reporting Form

Adding new Record ID 8165


Record ID: 8165


Date reported: 01-27-2022 Today M-D-Y

Building type: Public School
** must provide value*

Are you reporting an outbreak?
 Yes No
** must provide value* reset

This line list **must** be used to submit cases that are part of the outbreak.

Attachment:  [School COVID line List.xlsx](#) (0.07 MB)

Please upload your **completed line list with cases that are part of the outbreak.**  [Upload file](#)

PreK-12 Outbreak Definition:

Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group*

OR


At least three (3) cases within a specified core group* meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other[§]; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e. household) outside of the school setting; AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity.

Reporting a Potential Outbreak, continued

Once the Kane County Health Department receives the Red Cap Outbreak report, the Outbreak team will review the report and confirm the outbreak. The Outbreak Investigator will provide guidance upon request and will follow up with the school point of contact as needed.

The Kane County Health Department will then report the school outbreak to IDPH and will monitor the outbreak. The school's point of contact will receive a RedCap survey, Monday through Friday, via email (see figure below). School personnel should ensure the survey is completed each day. The brief survey will ask if any new cases have been identified. New cases should be added to the line list. The line list is continuous and school personnel will continue to add additional cases to the line list and upload the updated line list for each new case in the survey throughout the outbreak.

For example, 3 cases are initially reported as part of an outbreak. Two days later, there are two additional cases identified. Those two cases will be added to the original line list and the updated line list will then be uploaded with that day's survey.

Record ID	188
Name of organization	<input type="text"/>
Today's date	<input type="text"/>  <input type="button" value="Today"/> M-D-Y
Are there any additional confirmed cases, persons showing symptoms to report or any other updates to share?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No reset
If you are reporting any confirmed cases, please attach line list here	Upload file
If you have implemented any additional infection control measures today, please note that here.	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 60px;"></div> Expand
If you have any concerns or questions for the Kane County Health Department COVID-19 Outbreak team, please note that here.	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 60px;"></div> Expand
Form Status	

Outbreak Testing

Outbreak testing is strongly recommended for students in schools that are in outbreak status and required for school personnel who may be part of the outbreak.

Key recommendations for outbreak testing:

Implementation of outbreak testing should begin as soon as possible from the date the outbreak is identified and at least within three days.

- Schools should conduct twice weekly testing of all staff (regardless of vaccination status).
- If a student is linked to an outbreak setting, but not a close contact, those students must be tested twice per week until the outbreak is over to continue participating in extracurricular activities, including sports.

Depending on the circumstances, the entire student body might be tested, unless the Kane County Health Department recommends otherwise.

Testing should continue until the school has gone two incubation periods, or 28 days, from the most recent case's symptom onset date (or the testing date, if asymptomatic), without identifying any new cases.

Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 within the prior 90 days and are currently asymptomatic may be exempted from testing during outbreaks, unless otherwise directed.

All close contacts should be tested at least five days after exposure.



Testing Resources

If testing is not already in place for screening, the school should make plans to deploy outbreak testing when needed.

- A list of free testing sites is available at: dph.illinois.gov/testing
- Additionally, SHIELD Illinois testing can be deployed to a school setting. The school must complete the Shield Testing Request form [here](#).

Please note that the state will prioritize outbreak testing for schools already signed up with Shield. Schools that are not already working with Shield will be placed on a waiting list.

- Midwest COVID-19 Testing Coordination Center (MCC)- this school resource is a partnership between IDPH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There is no cost to schools to participate. Register for testing assistance at: testedandprotected.org
- Schools can also utilize BinaxNOW rapid antigen testing for outbreak response by emailing: dph.antigentesting@illinois.gov

Exclusion Criteria for Pre-k - 12 Schools

Symptomatic students sent home must have a negative PCR test to return per [IDPH Exclusion Guidance for Schools](#).

If you test positive for COVID-19 (exclusion):

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must do the following:

- Stay home for a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from positive viral test for asymptomatic persons.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for five more days after returning to school.

Individuals may return to school after five days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.*

Be aware that your clinical provider may determine that you need a longer period of isolation based on certain underlying clinical conditions such as a weakened immune system.

If you have COVID-19- like symptoms (exclusion):

***PCR test required when under outbreak status**

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must immediately be excluded from school until:

- Receiving a negative test result that confirms the symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19; or
- For a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days until fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.

Individuals must continue to wear a mask around others for five more days after returning to school.*

Those who test positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for person testing positive.

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have no COVID-19-like symptoms (exclusion):

The following people are close contacts** who must be excluded from school:

- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated (completed primary series).
- Students and staff aged 18 years and older who have received primary COVID-19 vaccine doses but have not received a booster dose when eligible (“unboosted”).

*When in outbreak status, symptomatic students sent home must have a negative PCR test to return per [IDPH Exclusion Guidance for Schools](#).

Test to Stay as an Alternative to Exclusion

As an alternative to exclusion for individuals who are close contacts, schools may permit close contacts without symptoms of COVID-19 who were exposed in the school setting during the school day (excludes extracurricular activities) to remain in school through Test to Stay.

Individuals without symptoms of COVID-19 who are not participating in Test to Stay:

- Must stay home for five days after the last contact with the person who has COVID-19;
- Must wear a mask around others for five additional days and remain asymptomatic*; and
- Should test for COVID-19 on day five. Those who test positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive

* Students may resume all activities as long as they remain asymptomatic and mask at all times when around others for 10 days from exposure. This includes dining periods, extracurricular activities and riding the bus. Schools should ensure that there is a plan for students or staff returning after 5 days to stay masked at all times indoors until day 10. During times in the school day when students or staff members may typically remove masks indoors (such as during lunches, snacks, band practice, etc.), schools should have a plan for them to adequately distance from others and ensure they wear their masks when not actively participating in these activities (such as when they are not actively eating).



Those Who Do Not Require Exclusion

The following people are not close contacts who require exclusion:

- A student who was within 3 to 6 feet in a classroom setting for least 15 minutes with a confirmed or probable student case if both case and contact were consistently masked for the entire exposure period.
- Students and staff aged 18 years and older who have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary doses for some immunocompromised people.
- A student aged 5-17 years who completed the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- An individual on school transportation within 3 to 6 feet if both the confirmed case and the exposed individual were consistently and correctly masked during the entire exposure period and windows were opened (front, middle, and back, or overhead) to allow for good ventilation or HEPA filters were in use during transit.
- An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from date of exposure.
- An individual who is solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors; however, schools may coordinate with their local health department to determine the necessity of exclusion for higher-risk outdoor exposures.

These individuals must wear a mask around others for 10 days and may consider testing for COVID-19 on day five, if possible. Those who test positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive.

Additional Mitigation Strategies

Buses

- Assigned seating with seating chart readily available. **May need to quarantine all individuals on bus if unable to identify close contacts.**
- Household should be seated together.
- Reinforce masking at all times—while waiting for bus, at entry and exit, and during travel.
- Social distancing – at queue, during pick up, drop off and travel.
- Keep windows down whenever possible, weather permitting.

Breakfast/Lunch

- Encourage outdoor dining when weather permits
- Maintaining 6 feet distance when eating or drinking without a mask (as best as possible).
- Employ alternate location when 6 ft. distance cannot be maintained (e.g. gym, multi-purpose room).
- Assigned seating with seating chart readily available.
- Staggered seating at tables, thus allowing more space at the table. Lowering student : table ratio with staggered seating.
- Reminder announcement (and monitoring) to mask as soon as meal is done and to sanitize area used.

Recess

Staff and students generally do not require masking when outdoors, however in areas of substantial to high transmission, staff and students who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Universal masking is recommended during indoor physical education or recess

Utilizing a rotating schedule of playground areas and equipment for classes or groups can help reduce exposure. For example, on Tuesday, classroom A is assigned swings, classroom B is playing at basketball court while classroom C is using the merry-go-round.

Additional Mitigation Strategies, continued

Hand Hygiene

Reminder announcement (and monitoring) to wash hands both before and after meals/snack, recess and bathroom breaks.

Specials

It is recommended that specials rotate into the main classroom, versus having the class move to the specials room, if possible.

If not possible to rotate the teacher into the classroom, match the specials seating charts to the homeroom chart.

Music classes should maintain more than 6 feet distance while playing wind instruments (e.g., recorder) and singing.

Sports/ Extracurricular Activities

- Screening testing for all participants who are not fully vaccinated based on level of transmission.
- See #4 Screening Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Educating Staff and Parents

- Encouragement to stay home if you or a household member have symptoms or do not feel well.
- Testing within 48 hours of symptom onset. Find free testing sites here: www.test-illinois.com

Outbreak Closure

The school outbreak will be closed by the Kane County Health Department once the outbreak site has gone two incubation periods, or 28 days, from the most recent case's symptom onset date (or the testing date, if asymptomatic), without identifying any new cases linked to the outbreak.

Screening Testing Recommendations

Table 1. Screening Testing Recommendations for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission

	Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Students	Do not need to screen students.	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
Teachers and staff	Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			
High risk sports and activities	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports ² and extracurricular activities ³ at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.
Low- and intermediate-risk sports	Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports. ²	Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.		

¹ [Levels of community transmission](#) defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%.)

² Examples of low-risk sports are diving and golf; intermediate-risk sport examples are baseball and cross country; high-risk sport examples are football and wrestling.

Additional Resources

COVID-19 Toolkit for Kane County Schools

If you have questions about the guidelines for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in your school, reporting cases, and more, please visit:

[Kane County Health Department COVID-19 Information for Schools and Daycares](#)

Kane County Health Department Office Hours

Did you know that staff from the Kane County Health Department are available to meet Monday through Friday via Zoom to answer questions about COVID-19 mitigation in schools and daycares? It's easy! Just click on the link to enter the live video chat.

[Mondays from 10:00 - 11:00 am](#)

[Tuesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm](#)

[Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 am](#)

[Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:00 am](#)

[Fridays from 10:00 - 11:00 am](#)

Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

COVID-19 vaccines remain the most effective way to control the spread of the virus, and greatly reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death. The Kane County Health Department KaneVax Hub in Batavia offers COVID-19 and flu vaccines for those aged 5 and up.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, visit: kanevax.org



Our School Team is available to answer questions via email to: school@co.kane.il.us