School Recovery & Guidance

SUMMER 2021

West Virginia Board of Education
2020-2021

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VACCINATION INFORMATION

Health officials are administering the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in West Virginia to help protect against COVID-19. Vaccines are important to:

- Protect population against virus spread, especially the most vulnerable;
- Reduce deaths and hospitalizations; and
- Maintain critical services and acute care.

Designated as a high priority by Governor Jim Justice, school employees received the vaccine ahead of most of the general population to assist in the return of in-person instruction. There are three vaccines authorized in the U.S. and administered in West Virginia: Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Both Moderna and Pfizer require two rounds of shots while the Johnson & Johnson is a single dose.

Vaccine Second Dose Administration:

21 days | 28 days | 2nd dose not required

It is not possible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine because it does not contain a live virus. Instead, it causes the body to produce antibodies against the virus.

Upon receiving the second dose, immunity usually occurs after 10 to 14 days. It is possible for an individual to be infected until full immunity occurs.

For complete vaccine information provided by the DHHR, visit *https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx* or contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-833-734-0965 with questions. If a school or county wishes to host vaccine clinics, please contact Michele Blatt at *mlblatt@k12.wv.us.*

Launching the #IGotVaxxedWV Campaign

As a response to the declining rate of individuals receiving vaccinations statewide, the West Virginia Department of Education launched its #IGotVaxxedWV campaign to encourage students 12 and older to get their COVID-19 vaccine. The campaign includes a series of videos and social media graphics with testimonials from school personnel and students who share their reasons for getting vaccinated. The campaign will continue through fall 2021 to educate students about the benefits of getting vaccinated in hopes of returning to a typical school year with in-person instructions.

RECOVERY PROTOCOLS AND KEY MITIGATIONS

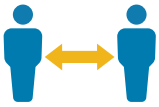
On March 25, 2021, all pre-k through grade 12 students returned to school five days each week. Mitigation strategies effectively implemented are shown to decrease incidents of virus spread. County and school leaders should follow the mitigation strategies below relevant to the latest Governor's Executive Orders, CDC guidance, and county board of education requirements.

Six Key Mitigations

Cleaning and disinfecting

Hand hygiene and coughing/ sneezing etiquette

Evaluate large gatherings outside of classroom/core groups



Social distancing according to county board guidance

Face coverings at county board discretion

Contact tracing in collaboration with local health departments

Six Key Mitigation Strategies

Cleaning and Disinfecting

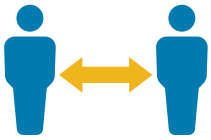
- Audit necessary materials and supply chain for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and preventing spread of disease.
- Assign duties and responsibilities regarding cleaning and disinfecting to ensure consistency.
- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., paper towels, tissues, soap, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) for safe use by staff and older children.
- Ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces on a regular basis by establishing a schedule for routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting.
- Disinfect all shared objects on a regular basis.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfecting products.
- Limit sharing of personal items and classroom materials or provide adequate supplies for individual student use.

Hand Hygiene and Coughing/Sneezing Etiquette

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Before
    - *Eating or preparing food*
    - *Touching your face*
  - After
    - *Using the restroom*
    - *Coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose*
    - *Changing a diaper*
    - *Caring for someone sick*
    - *Touching animals*
  - Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue.
  - Ensure that used tissues are thrown in the trash and hands are washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or cleaned with hand sanitizer.

Evaluate Large Gatherings Outside of Classrooms/Core Groups

- Evaluate activities that involve bringing together large groups of people or activities that do not allow adequate spacing.
- Develop plans in consultation with local public health officials regarding after-school or community events.



Social Distancing

- Keep students and teachers in small core groups as much as possible during the day.
- Review current practices throughout the school day according to county board of education guidance.

Face Coverings

- CDC recently released guidance on the ability of *fully vaccinated people* to resume pre-pandemic activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing. Any mask requirements are at the discretion of county boards of education.

Contact Tracing with Local Health Department

- For cases requiring quarantining, review class, bus, and cafeteria seating charts, and only quarantine students who were within six feet of an infected person as opposed to quarantining an entire class and sending students home unnecessarily.
- Consider hiring someone (service employee, part-time, or contract with health department or other agency) at the school to collaborate/coordinate with the local health department and the central office to conduct school level contact tracing.

QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

Option 1 Quarantine period can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring. Post-quarantine transmission risk: 1%-10%	» Day 0*-10 quarantine for close contacts can end if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring without testing. » If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact the local health department to report change in clinical status.
Option 2 Quarantine period can end after Day 7 if someone tests negative (PCR or antigen test) and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring. Post-quarantine transmission risk: 5%-12	» Day 0*-7 quarantine for close contact can end if COVID-19 test is negative and if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring. » Specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation. » Self-monitoring and mask wearing should be continuous. » If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact public health to report change in clinical status.

**Duration of quarantine applies from the last date of exposure*

Monitoring and Handling of Presumptive, Suspected, and Confirmed Cases

Schools and counties are required to:

- Educate staff, students, and their families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school.
- Establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes.
  - Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to the designated area at the school and send them home to isolate.
  - Ensure symptomatic students are isolated for a short period of time, in a non-threatening manner and under the visual supervision of a staff member who is socially distanced to the greatest extent possible while wearing appropriate PPE.

W. Clayton Burch
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools