

Student Support Services

COVID-19 Health Guidance Updates

*Wake County Board of Education Work Session
August 2, 2022*



Desired Outcomes

- Review COVID-19 context in Wake County
- Review sunset of NC DHHS StrongSchools
NC Public Health Toolkit
- Provide an overview of updated guidance
aligned to Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)

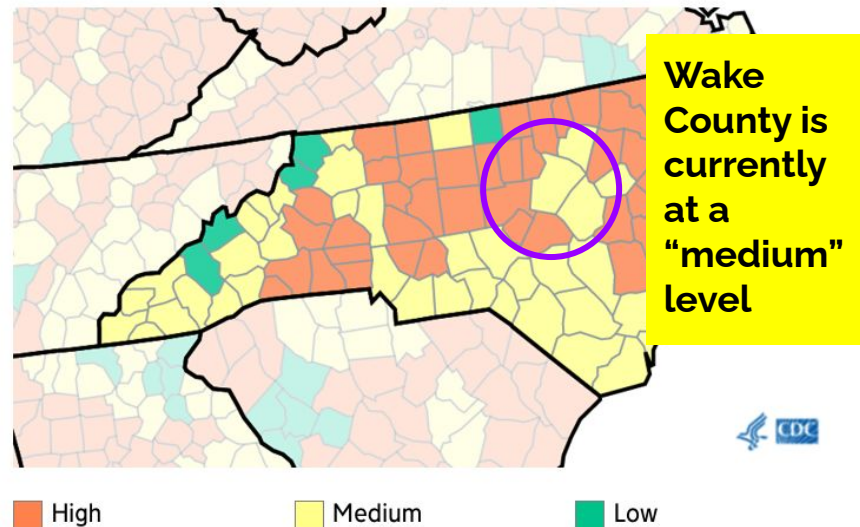
CDC COVID-19 Community Levels - July 26, 2022

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels by County

50/100 Previous Week 41/100

Counties with a high risk of illness and strain on the health care system

The Centers for Disease Control assign a community risk level for every county. [More info](#) or [find your county](#)



Health Metrics Update



Vaccinations

Recommended range of 70%-90% vaccinated for students and staff



Positive Cases

Significant declining rate covering 28 days (2 incubation cycles)



Cases per 100,000

7-day average 10 cases or less per 100,00 in the community

Vaccination rates as of July 26, 2022

Wake County population with at least one dose: 77%

Wake County population vaccinated with initial series complete: 74%

Students age 5-11 with a least one dose: 48%

Students age 5-11 vaccinated with initial series complete: 46%

Students age 12-17 with at least one dose: 69%

Students age 12-17 vaccinated with initial series complete: 67%

Cases per 100,000: 277 cases per 100,000 as of 7/26/22

Percent Positivity : 19.2% as of 7/21/22

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Sunset of NC DHHS StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit

As of June 23, 2022 StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit has sunset

- Schools should now refer to CDC's:
 - [Operational Guidance for K12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#)

Key Highlights Include:

- No longer recommended that schools require staff to report their vaccination status and participate in a screening program, if they are unvaccinated
- No longer recommended that schools implement physical distancing strategies (such as keeping students 3ft or 6ft apart)
- No longer recommend universal contact tracing
- Masks are recommended in communities with high COVID-19 levels
- Testing, ventilation, and cleaning remain important layers of protection



Health Guidance Aligned to CDC - Vaccinations

CDC recommends staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations to prevent severe disease.

- CDC recommends COVID-19 primary series vaccines for everyone ages 6 months and older, and COVID-19 boosters for everyone ages 5 years and older, if eligible.

[More information can be found on CDC's "Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines Website"](#)



Guidance Aligned to CDC - Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Washing hands can prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to clean hands

To help stop the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands)

Individuals with symptoms should stay home and get tested for COVID-19.

- People who are at risk of severe illness with COVID-19 who test positive should consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible treatment, even if their symptoms are mild.

Guidance Aligned to CDC - When to Return

To learn when to return after COVID-19 diagnosis or symptoms, see:
www.wcpss.net/whentoreturn.

WHEN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL/WORK

CHOOSE A SCENARIO:

1. COVID-19 positive	2. COVID-19 symptoms
<p data-bbox="490 740 890 765">1. <u>COVID-19 Positive Individuals</u></p> <p data-bbox="523 787 857 831">Use this chart for individuals who tested positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p data-bbox="1012 740 1508 765">2. <u>Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms</u></p> <p data-bbox="1116 787 1404 852">Use this chart for individuals with symptoms who don't fall into the other categories.</p>



Guidance Aligned to CDC - Masks

No current local, state, or federal policies mandating universal masking in schools.

We remain in contact with local public health officials about [CDC Community Levels of COVID-19](#) as it pertains to masking.

Staff and students are recommended to wear a mask in the following situations:

- At least 10 days after symptoms onset or testing positive for COVID-19 (5 days for quarantine and 5 days upon returning)
- At least 10 days following an exposure to a person with COVID-19
- Individuals who are at increased risk for severe illness due to COVID-19, are unvaccinated, or are not up to date on vaccines, should wear a mask in indoor settings



Guidance Aligned to CDC - Mask Accommodations

If a student cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition or disability, in situations where students are required to mask, families may request a mask accommodation by submitting a [Mask Accommodation Request Form](#) ([form in Spanish](#)) to the principal.

Families for our students in Regional Programs do not need to complete this form.



Guidance Aligned to CDC - COVID-19 Reporting

Required by North Carolina General Statute § 130A-136.

Principals and supervisors report positive COVID-19 cases on a daily basis.

Our Covid-19 dashboard will be updated each Monday with the previous week's cases.



Guidance Aligned to CDC - Testing

Discontinued pool testing with Mako Medical.

All school sites are being provided at-home test kits to provide to families and staff upon request for symptoms of COVID-19.

- Parents/Guardians/Staff should follow testing directions provided with test kits
- Test kits should not be given to students
- Testing should not be performed on WCPSS school or work sites

Families/staff should continue to report positive cases to their principal or supervisor.

Principals and central services supervisors can contact our Purchasing Department to order additional testing kits as needed.



Guidance Aligned to CDC - Health Room Guidance

Separate COVID-19 Care Centers are no longer required.

As before the pandemic, health rooms are the designated space to isolate symptomatic individuals who become ill during the school day or disclose that they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Individuals sick or not feeling well should wear a mask while waiting in the health room to leave the school.

Supervising staff members should wear masks while in the health room.

Guidance Aligned to CDC - Ventilation and Cleaning/Disinfecting

Ventilation and cleaning/disinfecting remain important layers of protection.

Continued Practices

- Clean/disinfect using EPA approved disinfectant for COVID-19
 - surfaces, touchpoints, bathrooms, kitchens.
- Cafeteria staff will disinfect tables before and after meals.
- School staff will disinfect tables after class seatings.
- Soap & paper towel dispensers will be checked regularly and replenished.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be checked and replenished.
- Use of MERV-13 high filtration filters in our HVAC systems in our schools and buildings.



Guidance Aligned to CDC - Requests for Accommodations or Extra Precautions

WCPSS will make reasonable accommodations for students and staff with disabilities when required by the ADA, Section 504, and/or the IDEA.

Any request for accommodations or modifications to the school environment to accommodate a medical condition should be handled through a 504 or IEP team.

For students not designated with 504 or IEP needs, a referral for evaluation can be made by families.

If questions arise regarding whether a particular accommodation is reasonable or appropriate, schools should contact the Special Education Services department or District 504 Team for assistance.



Summary - Mitigation Strategies

- Monitor COVID-19 Community Levels and regularly seek guidance from local public health officials on best practice mitigation strategies
- Remind families and schools about staying up to date vaccinations, importance of hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette
- Continue to remind staff and families to stay home when sick, not feeling well, or have symptoms of COVID-19



Summary - Mitigation Strategies

- Recommend all staff, students, and visitors wear masks as a way to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Continue to ask all families and staff to report COVID-19 cases and continue to share that information on our weekly COVID-19 dashboard
- Ensure there are masks available at schools should students and families want them
- Provide at-home test kits to all schools to provide to parents/guardians and staff with COVID-19 symptoms upon request
- Students who are sick, not feeling well, those with COVID-19 symptoms, or disclose positive test for COVID-19 will be isolated in school health rooms and will be provided a mask



Summary - Mitigation Strategies

- Continue to clean/disinfect surfaces, sinks, touch points
- Continue to clean/disinfect restrooms, classrooms, buses, kitchens, and cafeteria tables regularly.
- Soap and paper towel dispensers checked regularly and replenished
- Hand sanitizer dispensers checked regularly and replenished
- Use of MERV-13 high-filtration filters in our HVAC systems will continue and maintained

WHAT   
STARTS
 HERE
CHANGES
 EVERYTHING.