

Quincy Community Schools
Frequently Asked Questions for the 2021-2022 School Year Revised (8/20/2021)

1. Are masks required at school this year?

Currently MDHHS, the CDC and local health departments are recommending that all students and staff wear a mask while at school but are not requiring masks to be worn. Quincy Community Schools is following the health department and recommending that all staff and students wear masks but are not requiring masks to be worn. The district encourages the use of masks and will provide masks to anyone who wants one and any student, staff member, or visitor is always welcome to wear masks in our schools at their own discretion. Please show grace and support the choices of others. If an individual decides to wear a mask or to not wear a mask we ask that everyone support those choices and work together for the well-being of all in our schools.

2. Why are masks required on school buses?

Currently a federal mandate exists that requires everyone that uses public transportation to wear a mask. The federal government and state and local health departments all confirm that public transportation includes school buses. Therefore, anyone who rides a school bus must wear a mask while on the bus. Based on this mandate from the federal government, **all students or staff on Quincy Community School Buses are required to wear masks while on the school bus.**

3. Will students and staff still be required to quarantine this year for close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID19?

The Branch Hillsdale and St. Joseph Health Department (BHSJHD) will be determining quarantines for any close contact that occurs at our school or on buses. BHSJHD has indicated that the quarantine period for staff or students that have tested positive for COVID-19 or are close contacts is 10 days with an additional 4 days of self-monitoring. BHSJHD has communicated to schools that are returning to in person learning without universal masking (masks are optional) that a close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. For schools returning to in-person learning with universal masking (all students in the district required to mask), a close contact is someone who has been within 3 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. Based on the information above from the health department, close contacts in our school will be determined if a student is within 6 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more. Students on our buses are all masked allowing us to use the standard of within 3 feet for more than 15 minutes when doing contact tracing on the bus. Students are encouraged to practice social distancing as mitigation strategy and to maintain 6 feet between them when possible and avoid congregating in large groups.

4. If a staff member or student is fully vaccinated, do they have to be quarantined after close contact?

BHSJHD has indicated that those who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine if they are a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID19 unless they are showing symptoms or have a Positive PCR test that is confirmed by BHSJHD.

5. If a staff member or student had COVID-19, do they have to be quarantined after close contact?

BHSJHD has indicated that those who have had COVID-19 and completed their isolation period will not have to quarantine if the close contact occurs within 90 days from their positive test date for COVID-19 and as long as they are showing no COVID-19 symptoms.

6. What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19 or if they have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive?

Students testing positive for COVID-19 or who are close contacts will be required to quarantine by the BHSJHD. Parents or Guardians are asked to contact their students respective school office when a child has tested positive or been in close contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. When in doubt, please keep students at home and contact the local health department or your child's school for appropriate next steps.

7. What symptoms should I be looking for in my children if I suspect COVID-19?

New or different symptoms outside a regular or chronic illness experienced by a staff member or student that includes sore throat, uncontrolled cough, severe congestion, difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of taste, loss of smell, headache or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher are all potential symptoms of COVID-19.

8. If my child has a fever or is sick should I keep them home?

Yes. As recommended by the CDC and BHSJHD, students with a temperature should remain at home until they are no longer contagious or COVID-19 can be ruled out. Parents are asked to check their students daily before sending them to school for signs or symptoms of illness and if their child is ill they should remain at home.

9. Should I be checking my student for illness each day before sending my student(s) to school?

Parents should be screening their student(s) for illness each day and students who are sick should remain at home until they have recovered or COVID-19 has been ruled out.

10. Being a staff member, do I need to complete a screener before coming to work each day?

All staff should self-assess each day for COVID-19 symptoms but no official screener is needed.

11. Will parent volunteers be allowed in schools?

At this time parent volunteers are not being permitted in classes during the school day to help us reduce the number of people in the school buildings to further help avoid the spread of COVID-19 among students. Meetings of parent groups such as athletic boosters, band boosters, and JPO are encouraged to meet outside of school hours following appropriate safety guidelines.

12. Will my student still be receiving a Chromebook this year to take home or can I purchase my own for my student to use?

As of last year, Quincy Community Schools is a one to one school district. Each student can be assigned their own Chromebook. Parents do have the option of using their own electronic device in place of the school assigned Chromebook. Students electing to use a school Chromebook at home will be charged a \$15 materials fee before the Chromebook is issued. This provides up to \$200 of liability coverage for accidental damage to the Chromebook. Complete details for this program can be found in our Student Device/Electronic Use Policy Handbook posted on our website.

13. Will the district still be using Google Classroom or SeeSaw as a base for instruction?

Staff will continue to utilize Google Classroom or SeeSaw. In the case of quarantines or closures students will have access to school work through the appropriate platform.