



# FINNEYTOWN

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## LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Plan for 2022-2023

Sources: CDC, Ohio Department of Health, Hamilton County Public Health, Local School Districts

As we continue to respond to COVID-19, we remain committed to keeping all students learning in their classrooms and nurturing their academic and social growth. We appreciate our staff, students, and community's ability to be flexible and resilient. Below are the protocols in response to COVID. Comprehensive prevention strategies are in place to keep students, staff, families and communities safe and provide supportive environments for in-person learning.

The strategies and guidance below is written regarding COVID-19, however many of the layered prevention strategies outlined can help prevent the spread of other infectious diseases including influenza, RSV, norovirus, and support healthy learning environments for all.

### **Strategies for Everyday Operations**

A variety of actions should be implemented to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19. The following plans will be in place *regardless of community transmission level* (see community levels outlined below).

#### **Staying Up-to-Date on Vaccinations**

- Partner with the local health department and other vaccine clinics to promote equitable access to vaccination to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Staying up-to-date on routine vaccinations is essential to preventing illness from many infections. COVID-19 vaccination protects eligible people from severe illness and is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease.
- Provide information about COVID-19 vaccines and other recommended vaccines to the population.

#### **Staying Home When Sick**

- Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to others.
- Individuals (staff, students, visitors) should remain home with any symptoms of a respiratory or gastrointestinal infection. Such symptoms include cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Testing is still recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptom onset.

- Individuals who are high-risk and test positive should consult with their physician regarding treatment for COVID-19, even if symptoms are mild.
- To encourage individuals to stay home when feeling unwell, the school will allow flexible, non-punitive and supportive attendance policies. These policies will be made clear to the community prior to school starting.

### **Ventilation, Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Ventilation - when local transmission levels are "HIGH," mitigation measures can include opening windows and doors, holding appropriate activities outside, and using portable air cleaners with HEPA filters.
- Hand Hygiene - Washing hands and/or using hand sanitizer can reduce the spread of infectious disease. The schools will continue to teach proper hand hygiene through modeling, posted information, and verbal/ visual reminders.
- Respiratory Etiquette - The school will continue to teach proper respiratory etiquette and technique through posted information, modeling and visual/ verbal reminders.

### **Cleaning**

- Shared surfaces will be cleaned/ disinfected at least once a day to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting will take place in areas where bodily fluids could be shared (health office).

### **Communication Plan**

- When a positive case is reported, we will send communication to the staff and families of the building where the case was reported. We will include the grade level of the student in the email communication.
- We will email all staff and families each week with building case totals for the week.
- We will continue to update our Finneytown Local School District's COVID-19 Dashboard on a weekly basis and individual privacy will continue to be protected at each step in our process.

### **Ongoing Evaluation**

- We will continue to monitor public health guidance, community transmission rates, and our own school-based data, including case counts, student and staff absences, and more. When an adjustment to our mitigation strategies is needed, we will implement and communicate any changes as quickly as possible.

## COVID-19 Community Levels and Increased Prevention Strategies

### COVID-19 Community Levels

- Used in combination with other factors (health status of student population and resource (testing and vaccination) availability) to determine appropriate infectious disease mitigation strategies. When the COVID-19 Community Level indicates an increase, particularly if the level is high or the school or ECE program is experiencing an outbreak, schools or ECE programs should consider adding layered prevention strategies.

### Masking

- At a high COVID-19 Community Level, universal indoor masking in schools and ECE programs is **recommended**, as it is in the community at-large.
- CDC also recommends masking at all times in [healthcare settings](#), including school nurses' offices, regardless of the current COVID-19 Community Level.
- People who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 should also wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.
- Any student or staff who chooses to wear a mask will be supported in their decision to do so.

### Testing

- The school will continue to provide resources regarding testing sites. If we are provided additional tests from ODH, we will continue to distribute them to the community.

### Management of Cases and Exposures

- Students or staff who develop or exhibit symptoms while at school will be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building and be sent home and encouraged to get tested/ consult their physician.
- Symptomatic individuals who cannot wear a mask will be separated from others as much as possible; children will be supervised by a designated caregiver wearing a mask or respirator.
- Students or staff who develop or exhibit symptoms will be asked to remain home for at least five days and symptoms are improving, or they have received clearance from their healthcare provider.
- Quarantine is no longer recommended for exposures to COVID-19. It is recommended that individuals who have a known exposure to COVID-19 wear a mask for at least 10 days following their exposure. Testing recommendations can be viewed on the CDC website.

### Responding to Outbreaks

- The school will continue to monitor reported COVID-19 cases. If an outbreak occurs, as defined by the local health department, the school will work directly with the local health department in determining appropriate mitigation measures.

## **Current Recommendations and Resources**

### **Current COVID-19 Community Level (as of 8/11/22)**

- Hamilton County is currently at the **HIGH COVID-19 Community Level per CDC guidelines**. At **HIGH**, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends individuals:
  - Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, on public transportation, and in crowded outdoor areas regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings).
  - Stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines.
  - Get tested if you have symptoms.
  - If you are at high risk for severe illness, consider taking additional precautions. Talk to your doctor to find what works best for you.
  - Stay home if you are sick.

### **Masking Plan**

- Due to the increased number of COVID cases in Hamilton County at this time, the use of masks in Finneytown Local School District is strongly recommended.
- People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.
- Individuals with symptoms or a positive test should stay home.

### **COVID Headquarters**

- We have created a COVID Headquarters on our website. Please click on the link above to review updated information from the district about COVID-19.
- Please contact Nurse Welling at [katewelling@finneytown.org](mailto:katewelling@finneytown.org). You can also text or call our COVID-19 hotline at 513-497-3302.

### **Nursing Staff:**

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