



Dearborn Co. Health Department

Promote, Protect, and Improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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January 6, 2021

To whom it may concern,

After review of data collected during the last four months, I have concluded that the percentage of close contacts in the classroom setting who become infected with COVID-19 is not significantly different from the percentage of all students in the county. In other words, there does not appear to be an increased risk associated with classroom exposure above the baseline risk of living in Dearborn County. For this reason, I do not believe individuals should be required to quarantine for exposure/close contact acquired during classroom activities. I also recommend that the quarantine not be required for exposure during recess, on the bus, or in the cafeteria, as I have been unable to document that these activities increase risk above background community exposure. Students should be allowed to quarantine if they are not comfortable attending school after being a close contact.

Lifting of quarantine requirements will apply to students and faculty in classroom settings and most supervised and structured academic school day activities, with the exception of extracurricular activities.


We have observed some increased risk associated with extracurricular activities, and will keep the former regulations in place for athletics and other extracurricular events at this time.

Individuals who are close contacts will be allowed to attend school but will be restricted from participation in extracurricular activities for the duration of time corresponding to the former quarantine requirements.

These changes are similar to changes being introduced in Ohio, and the decision for the changes is based on similar data observed in Dearborn County.

This is new territory and there is no guarantee we will not need to return to the old quarantine requirements. Unusual or unexpected situations will need to be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Sincerely,


Stephen C. Eliason, MD
Medical Director | Health Officer
Dearborn County Health Department