



# Eagle County Return to School Guidance

Updated 08/16/2021

## Disease and Vaccination Update

- Current Case Rate: 230 cases per 100,000 (as of 8/15/21)
- Last Year Case Rate (at this time): 29 cases per 100,000
- The majority of current cases and transmission is among adults that are not fully vaccinated
- Vaccination Rates (have initiated at least one dose)
  - 12 - 15 years: 72.3%
  - 16-17 years: 85.6%
  - Entire community: 75% of the total population
- Vaccines are 96% effective in preventing severe disease/ death
- Vaccines are our best line of defense against Covid-19
- Masks are strongly encouraged as a prevention measure for anyone unvaccinated or with an immunocompromised condition regardless of their current vaccination status

## School Guidance

- Masks are required for anyone 2 years and older in-school settings / child care centers as of 8/16/21: [Public Health Order](#)
- In-school masking thresholds:
  - Option 1: 80% of school (including staff and students) are fully vaccinated
  - Option 2: Community disease rate remains <50 cases per 100,000 for 7 consecutive days
- If either of these thresholds are met by the school or community, masks will be optional and remain highly recommended for anyone 2 years and older who are not fully vaccinated
- If these thresholds are NOT met by the school or community, masks will be required by all staff and students regardless of vaccination status
- If transportation is federally funded, masks are required. Masks are highly recommended for all passengers/drivers for all other transportation.
- Unvaccinated students/ staff with known exposures to persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not attend school
- Fully vaccinated students/staff with known exposures to persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 AND are symptom free may attend school but should:
  - Wear a mask indoors and get tested 3-5 days after last exposure
    - If the test is negative = may stop wearing a mask if they choose but should continue to wear a mask in facilities where it is required
    - If the test is positive = stay home and isolate from others in household
  - If no test is done - they should wear a mask for 14 days
- Any student/staff with COVID-19 like symptoms (regardless of vaccination status) should stay home and get tested
  - [Should My Child Go to School/Child Care Today - English](#)
  - [Should My Child Go to School/Child Care Today - Spanish](#)
- Individuals who are waiting for test results should not attend school
- Parents should screen children for signs and symptoms of illness prior to attending school each day

## Mask Exemption Process (In School Only)

- Mask Exemption for schools will follow the school's existing 504 process
- The process for medical exemption in Eagle County is as follows:
  - Those wishing to receive a medical exemption must prove that wearing a mask is detrimental to health due to existing medical conditions obstructing oxygen flow. Health care providers will refer to a pulmonologist or specialist for oxygen flow studies while wearing a mask. If oxygen flow is decreased, then the pulmonologist or specialist can provide paperwork to the schools for the mask exemption.
  - For those with disabilities and an existing 504 plan, if wearing a mask will cause additional stress or be detrimental to general wellbeing, behavioral health care providers can recommend an exemption to be added to the 504 plan. This can be in conjunction with the health care provider so underlying conditions, vaccination status, general risk of COVID, etc can all be considered before issuing the exemption.
- Religious exemptions
  - Each school can decide the process to allow or not allow for religious exemptions.

#### **Investigation Process (Exposure Outside of School)**

- All positive cases are reported to Eagle County Public Health and will be investigated
- Positive individuals must isolate for 10 days from symptoms onset or from test date if asymptomatic, regardless of vaccination status
  - If symptoms are significant, please seek medical care
- All household members and close contacts will be placed on quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated and remain symptom free
  - Quarantine options (beginning day after last exposure to positive individual)
    - 14 day quarantine (recommended for people who have contact with high risk individuals)
    - 10 day quarantine without testing and must remain symptom free
    - 7 day quarantine with negative test after day 5 from last exposure and must remain symptom free

#### **Investigations Process (Exposure In-School)**

- If tested in clinic/ testing site, all positive cases are reported to Eagle County Public Health and will be investigated
- If tested at home with Binax kit, positive individuals are NOT automatically reported to Eagle County Public Health. In this case, we urge anyone testing positive with an at home COVID test kit to contact Eagle County Public Health or report it on-line to CDPHE.
- Positive individuals must isolate for 10 days from symptoms onset or from test date if asymptomatic
- Close contacts (If masks are required)
  - Given the high vaccination rate, the risk decreases when disease rates are low
  - ECPHE will not be contact tracing or quarantining any close contacts in-school setting
- Close contacts (If thresholds are met and masks are not required)
  - If fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, does not need to quarantine but should:
    - Wear a mask and get tested 3-5 days after exposure
      - If test is negative - may discontinue wearing a mask
      - If test is positive - stay home and isolate from household
    - If fully vaccinated and symptomatic, stay home, wear a mask and get tested
    - If not vaccinated, asymptomatic, and wearing mask during exposure; does not need to quarantine but should continue to wear a mask and get tested 3-5 days after exposure
    - If not vaccinated and not wearing mask during exposure, must complete a quarantine (quarantine options listed above)

#### **Sports**

- Many sports, especially indoor sports, are considered high risk and extra precautions may be put into place if an exposure occurs
- Because of the intricacies of contact and exposure involved in different sports, each case will be assessed and recommendations made by public health

- In general, for indoor sports, ECPHE will follow the investigation process for close contacts (If thresholds are not met and masks are not required) outlined above
- For outdoor sports, depending on number of cases and level of exposure, unvaccinated individuals may not have to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms for 14 days and may test 5-7 days after exposure

### **Threshold**

- Our investigation process and school guidance may change if thresholds are not met to prevent further spread of Covid-19
  - Community Level: over 300 cases per 100,000 in a week (see disease response process above), increase in disease rates among children <12 years of age, increase in severity of illness among children, decrease in vaccine effectiveness, or a new variant of concern emerges that may challenge any or all of these indicators.
  - School Level: outbreak status is met (per current CDPHE definition of 5 cases within 14 days in the same cohort). This may result in expanded quarantines of close contacts.
  - Exposure Level: If risk of exposure is elevated as determined by activities, masks, social distancing, community/school case rates, and vaccination status.

### **Binax Home Tests**

- Rapid testing is available in Eagle County via health care providers, testing sites (with no office visit) or pharmacies. Map of testing sites: <https://sites.google.com/eaglecounty.us/covidtestingsites/english>
- Binax home tests are a great tool when used properly
- Please register the home test online in order to report any positive individuals to Eagle County Public Health
  - Registering your test can help prevent the spread of Covid-19 as well as provide you with guidance from Public Health

### **Key Takeaways**

- Vaccines are our best line of defense against Covid-19
- Masks are strongly encouraged as a prevention measure for anyone unvaccinated or with an immunocompromised condition regardless of their current vaccination status
- Masks are required for anyone 2 years and older in-school settings / child care centers as of 8/16/21, unless thresholds are met
- In-school masking thresholds:
  - Option 1: 80% of school (including staff and students) are fully vaccinated
  - Option 2: Community disease rate remains <50 cases per 100,000 for 7 consecutive days
- If either of these thresholds are met by the school/ community, masks will be optional and remain highly recommended for anyone 2 years and older who are not fully vaccinated
- If these thresholds are NOT met by the school/ community, masks will be required on school grounds by all staff, students, and/or parents/visitors regardless of vaccination status
- If community disease rates exceed thresholds, we may need to set other protective measures in place
- Registering your home test can help prevent the spread of Covid-19 as well as provide you with guidance from Public Health