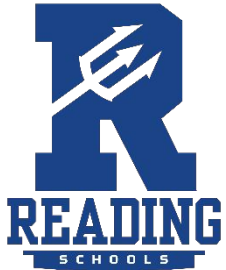


# **RCCSD Special Board Meeting**

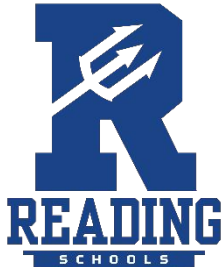
**October 29, 2021**



# **ODH Quarantine Guidelines**

## **Revised 10/25/21**

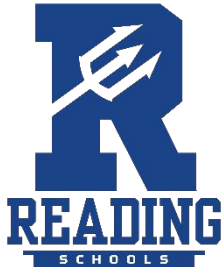
**“Mask To Stay, Test To Play”  
Option**



# Current Guidance and Requirements

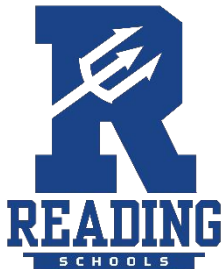
- Health departments officially quarantine students exposed to a positive or probable case of COVID-19
- Same requirements are applied to all situations - at school, athletic activity, home/community exposure
  - Vaccinated students are not required to quarantine
  - Students wearing a mask in a classroom environment are not required to quarantine
- Quarantine period is 10 days from exposure; a negative PCR test between days 5-7 qualify for early exit from quarantine on day 8

\*\*A positive student is required to isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and must be symptom free for 24 hours to return to school



# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

- New guidance provided by the Ohio Department of Health on Monday, October 25
  - 10:30 state meeting with Superintendents
  - 10:45 state meeting with county health departments
  - 11:00 press conference
- Optional approach school districts and families can utilize
  - Data for approach gathered through national experience, local health departments, and Warren County pilot program
  - Eliminates ***required*** quarantine as a result of close contact ***in a school environment***
  - District decision to implement and procedures must be followed, enforced, and be agreed to by parents/guardians for each case; otherwise traditional quarantine procedures must be followed



# Mask To Stay

- ***Direct/close contacts of a positive case may remain at school under the following conditions:***
  - Wear a mask for 14 days from exposure
  - Self/Parent monitor for symptoms (school personnel will respond if symptoms are noticed at school)
  - Isolate and test if symptomatic

**\*\*A negative test (PCR or antigen) between day 5-7 allows protocols to be discontinued on day 8 (no longer required to wear a mask); test must be proctored**

**\*Close Contact is defined as within 6 ft for 15 minutes (unmasked/unvaccinated) in a 2-day period**

**\*\*A student who is vaccinated and/or wearing a mask properly is NOT considered a close contact and would NOT be required to enter the Mask To Stay/Test To Play protocols**

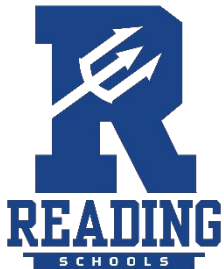
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**\*\*\*School Setting/School Related Activity ONLY; Does NOT apply to exposure at home or in a community setting**



# Test To Play

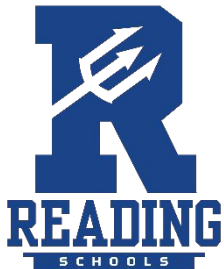
- ***Asymptomatic close contacts may continue to participate in extracurricular activities if they meet the following criteria:***
  - Wear a mask when able (on the sideline, transportation, locker room, not actively participating in the activity)
  - Test on initial notification of exposure to a positive/probable case of COVID-19 ***within 24 hours***
    - ***May participate while awaiting results***
    - A positive result requires immediate isolation protocol (10 days from symptom onset)
    - ***\*\*Failure to test within 24 hours of a close contact will result in a student being ineligible to continue participating during the entire quarantine period***
  - Test again day 5-7; if negative, discontinue protocol on day 8
    - Mask no longer required
    - ***Failure to test between days 5-7 would result in exclusion from the activity until quarantine period ends***



# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

## Benefits to modified, optional guidance:

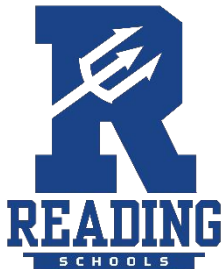
- Flexibility to keep students in school, not quarantined, regardless of close contact situation *in a school setting*
- ***Students vaccinated and/or wearing a mask are not close contacts and not required to enter Mask To Stay/Test To Play protocol***
- Pathway to allow athletics and other extracurricular activities to continue if protocols followed (mask when possible, testing)
- Optional participation in new guidelines
  - If families/students do not choose to follow Mask To Stay/Test To Play criteria, have the option to quarantine rather than wear a mask and/or be tested



# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

## Challenges to modified, optional guidance:

- Administrative and implementation of new guidance
  - Contact tracing
  - Communication
  - Monitoring mask vs no mask/vaccinated vs unvaccinated in the classroom/school environment
  - Tracking test results for extracurricular activities
  - Space/distance limitations in school environment
  - Tracking opt-in vs opt-out cases by parents/families
  - Volume of students to track
- Many more students would be considered close contacts
  - Potential for increased spread and illness
- School setting vs outside of school setting - different quarantine protocols
- Testing (optional and required)
  - Clinic/testing access
  - Potential cost
  - Limited time to get tested in Test To Play for athletes





# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

## School Setting - Defined

- All school day situations
  - Classroom
  - Hallways
  - Lunch
  - Recess
  - Transportation
- School-sponsored activities
  - Athletics
  - Clubs
  - School events

***\*\*\*New guidelines are only applicable to school-sponsored situations, not outside of school environments***



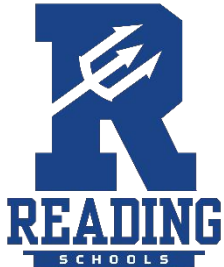
# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

## **New Guidelines Not Applicable (Examples - not an exhaustive list)**

- Home exposure (family member)
- Community exposure
  - Recreational athletics
    - **\*\*including on school district property**
  - Youth organizations
    - **\*\*including on school district property**
  - Birthday parties
  - Sleepovers
  - Play dates
  - Community events

***\*\*Current quarantine protocols (10 days from exposure, return on day 8 with a negative test on day 5-7) are required for all settings not directly related to school environment or school sponsored***

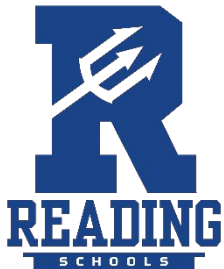
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# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

## If Adopted:

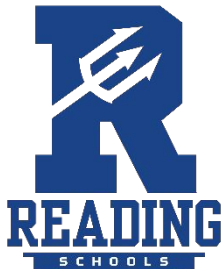
- Students currently quarantined as a result of being a close contact will complete the required quarantine timeline already in place
- New close contacts, *in a school environment*, beginning Monday, November 1st would follow updated protocols
- Communication sent to families Saturday, with follow up information early next week
- District Google Form Survey sent to families Saturday
  - Selection of Mask To Stay option or Quarantine option if student is a close contact
- Finalize and implement process
  - All hands on deck until procedures and assigned duties determined during first cases



# Mask To Stay, Test To Play

## If Not Adopted:

- Continue to operate with current quarantine guidelines
  - Any close contact of a positive/probable case required to quarantine, ***unless vaccinated or wearing a mask***
  - May return on day 8 with a negative PCR test after 5-7 days of exposure
  - Athletics/extracurriculars continue to be susceptible to a positive case and team members being close contacts
    - Nature of athletics/lack of contact tracing ability generally means all members quarantined and program is shut down for a period of time



# Implications of Current Mask Requirements



# Mask Requirements

- Continues to be no mask requirement in the state of Ohio
- Mask recommendations from the CDC, ODH, and HCPH have not changed for school environments
- “Please remember that the existing best practices of layering mitigation strategies (encouraging vaccination, mask wearing, and physical distancing) within the classroom setting should continue to be utilized to reduce the risk of transmission and keep our children and our communities safe.”
  - ODH FAQ document for Mask To Stay/Test To Play Quarantine Guidance - October 28, 2021
- RCCSD mask requirement set to expire Friday, November 5th.
  - Originally set to review on Wednesday, November 3rd
  - Date determined prior to release of Mask To Stay/Test To Play revised guidance

