



Richland Public Health

555 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, OH 44907
419-774-4500 • www.richlandhealth.org



COVID-19

August 3, 2020

Dear Richland County parents, staff and students:

In an effort to keep parents, staff and students informed, Richland Public Health would like to outline what the process will look like, should there be an exposure to COVID-19 in a school setting. COVID-19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. As more cases are being confirmed throughout the state, including in our community, it is important to approach potential exposures in a practical, yet vigilant manner. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after an exposure. If you or a family member exhibit these symptoms, please contact your medical provider.

If an exposure has occurred where a student or a school staff member has tested positive, or has been identified as a probable COVID-19 case, Richland Public Health will work with school administrators and/or school nurses to identify close contacts, following CDC guidelines. If your child has been identified as a close contact, a Richland Public Health staff member or representative will notify you and ask that your child be quarantined for 14 days from the date of possible exposure. At that time you will be given the guidance to self-monitor the child for the duration of the quarantine. If your child has remained symptom-free for the duration of the quarantine period, they may return to school at that time. In the event that your child displays symptoms of COVID-19, you should contact your medical provider.



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Richland Public Health encourages you and your family to follow The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.
- Wear a facial covering in public settings.

Preventing the spread of this virus requires the vigilance of everyone at school, at home and out in the community. As we learn more about COVID-19 the guidance changes accordingly. For current information on COVID-19, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or richlandhealth.org.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together.

Sincerely,

Sarah Goodwill Humphrey, MPH, CPH, RS

Health Commissioner