



Board of Education Meeting

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Agenda

- Reopening Schools
- School System
- Considerations
- Health Guidelines

Reopening Schools

- Reopening school recommended by American Academy of Pediatrics
- Important for development
 - Cognitive
 - Social
 - Emotional
 - Physical

School System

- Planning
- In school risk reduction
- Building safety
- Based on CDC, MDH and MSDE guidance
- Addressed by AACPS separately as part of their plan

Considerations for Reopening

- The benefits of getting kids back into school are balanced with the risks of school disruption or transmission due to COVID-19
- Students and teachers do their best to maintain safe practices but are not perfect
- Risk can be reduced but not eliminated
- If one person in a cohort has COVID-19, then all people in the cohort will be assessed for quarantine
- An average of one cohort closure per school per month is the most that can be managed while keeping schools open

Considerations for Opening

- Virtual learning will always be available
- Reopening in-school learning is prioritized over reopening extracurricular activities
- The higher the community case rate, the higher the chance of a case in a student or staff member
- Cases in school can occur due to community spread (someone infected by someone else in the community with no connection to school) and/or school spread (someone in school infects someone else in the school community)

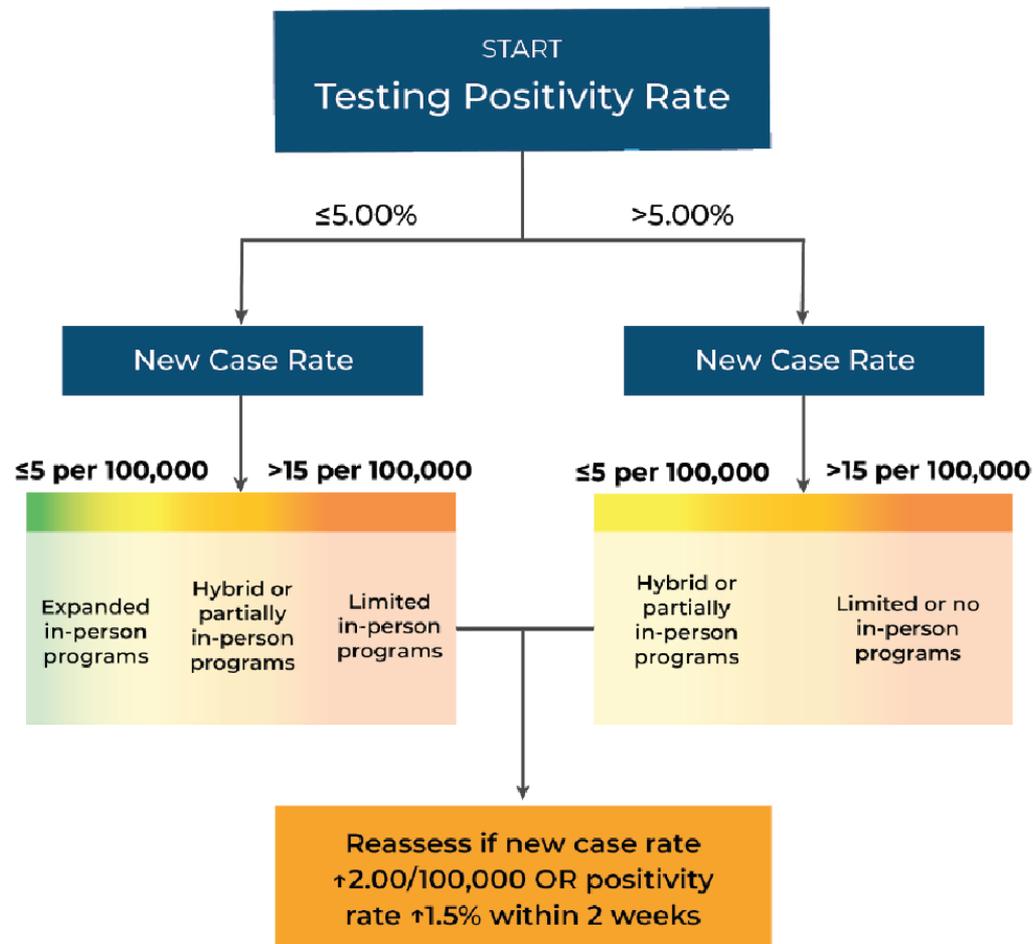
Health Guidelines

- Conditions for Reopening: when different grades can open based on the community case rate
- Testing: goals and availability in the community and school
- Contact tracing at school
- Handling cases and outbreaks at school

Conditions for Reopening

- MDH guidance is a broad framework
- We worked to provide greater specificity by grade level and case rate

MDH School Reopening Guidance



Getting specific

- Specific guidelines for K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- Cohort size matters (who's in your bubble)
 - K-5 cohort size in the 10's (classroom)
 - 6-8 cohort size in the 100's (grade)
 - 9-12 cohort size in the 1000's (school)
- Age and Covid
 - Children less than 10
 - Less likely to transmit covid
 - Less likely to have symptoms if they get it
 - Children older than 10
 - Similar to adults in likelihood of transmitting covid

Assumptions

- A/B schedule
 - Half the class is in person Monday & Tuesday
 - Other half of the class is in person Thursday & Friday
- Students and teachers do their best to maintain safe practices but are not perfect
- If a cohort has a covid case then all people in the cohort will be assessed for quarantine
- 1 cohort closure per school per month is the most that can be managed
- Spread of covid will occur both in the community and in school
- The higher the case rate the higher the likelihood of spread

Conditions for Reopening

		Case Rate			
		<5	5-10	10-15	>15
Grade	K-5	Recommend hybrid in-person	Recommend hybrid in-person	Consider hybrid in-person if case/outbreaks are not prohibitive	Recommend virtual
	6-8	Recommend hybrid in-person AFTER successful K-5 transition	Consider hybrid in-person if (a) K-5 hybrid in-person is in place and (b) case/outbreaks are not prohibitive	Recommend virtual	Recommend virtual
	9-12	Recommend hybrid in-person AFTER successful K-8 transition	Recommend virtual	Recommend virtual	Recommend virtual
	Special Situations	Recommend hybrid in-person	Recommend hybrid in-person	Recommend hybrid in-person	Recommend virtual

Testing Approach

- Available to all students, family and staff at no cost
- Available for symptomatic and asymptomatic people
- All existing Department of Health testing sites are available:
 - Glen Burnie
 - Annapolis
 - Deale
 - Odenton
 - Community pop ups
- New testing sites will be developed in areas with Title I schools to increase accessibility
- New school testing teams will test exposed individuals at schools to facilitate cohort testing

Contact Tracing

- Epidemiology staff do contact tracing and outbreak investigations in schools as a routine part of the work
- Students and staff to inform school if they are positive
- School will inform Department of Health to prioritize contact tracing for school based cases
 - Expedites cases when the individual is a county resident
 - Critical when the individual is not a county resident since AACo Health Department would not be informed initially

Cases in School

- When a case is identified, their cohort will be assessed for quarantine
 - Classroom
 - Work area (staff only)
 - Transportation
 - Extracurricular
- Quarantine will be managed by the Health Department and last 14 days
- Testing will be offered but does not shorten the length of quarantine
- Case can be community acquired or school acquired – may not always be clear

Outbreak – Class / Cohort

- Two people (student, teacher or other school staff) with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 from separate households within 14 days
- A sign of in school transmission
 - At higher case rates may be difficult to distinguish community versus in school spread
- Typically an outbreak is identified while the cohort is quarantined

Outbreak - School

- In schools practicing cohorting, three or more classrooms or cohorts with cases from separate households that meet the classroom/cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days
- In schools not practicing cohorting, two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases from separate households with onset within 14 days in the same school
- 5% or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14 day period [minimum of 10 unrelated]
- Typically leads to school closure

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