

COVID-19

Interim Guidance for Schools

LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

LENAWEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- Carefully monitoring state, national, and global trends.
- Communicating with state and local partners to prepare for response.
- Monitoring rapidly evolving guidance from the CDC.
- Maintaining communication with local medical providers to provide up to date information.

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT DO WE TELL CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS?

- Provide opportunities for, and teach children to properly wash their hands, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not available.
- Teach children to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue away. If a tissue is not available, they may cough or sneeze into their elbow.
- Encourage parents to keep children home if they are sick with fever, cough or shortness of breath. Children should remain home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Share prevention messaging at school-based events. Remind participants to stay home if sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water, and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Encourage parents to have a family emergency preparedness plan, including alternate child care, as well as having an appropriate supply of food/water/medications, in the event that it was necessary for them to be at home for several days due to illness.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER FOR STAFF?

- Encourage staff to stay home when sick. Review attendance and sick leave policies. Use flexibility, when possible, to allow staff to stay home to care for sick family members.
- Communicate with employees
 - Encourage them to have their own family emergency preparedness plans, including alternate child care, as well as having an appropriate supply of food/water/medications for family in the event that it was necessary for them to be at home for several days due to illness.
- Make a plan for how school will continue if there is increasing absenteeism or other interruptions.
- Your continued support in submitting accurate weekly illness reports to the health department is critical to our understanding of disease activity in the community. Please email lenaweehd@lenawee.mi.us with any questions.

PREVENT THE SPREAD

WHAT CLEANING SHOULD BE DONE?

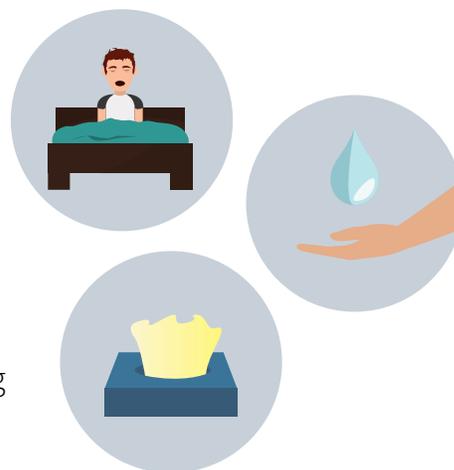
- No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time.
- You may wish to provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, etc.) can be wiped down by employees before each use.
- Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces using the cleaning agents you normally use for these areas and follow the directions on the label.

SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

- Currently, the CDC does not recommend that people who are not sick wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. Health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings should also consider face mask use.

IF A MASK IS NOT NEEDED , HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.



RESOURCES

- MDE-MDHHS Coronavirus Letter
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDE-MDHHS_Coronavirus_Letter_682656_7.pdf
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Lenawee County Health Department COVID information
tinyurl.com/lenaweeCOVIDinfo

