

Update – Transition to Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention

March 10, 2022



February 18 Guidance from CSDE and DPH

Title: Transitioning to a Model of Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention and Enhanced Outbreak Management and Control for COVID-19 in PreK-12 School Settings

Rationale:

- Widespread availability of vaccines
- At-home testing
- Treatment medications
- Falling case counts
- Experience with layered mitigation strategies in schools

Therefore ...

- Beginning February 28 “communities can begin to transition from a pandemic response to a standard public health approach to management and control of respiratory viral diseases”
- Shift focus to “response to case clusters and outbreaks”
- Recommend vaccination and booster doses
- Follow isolation guidelines
- Following an illness or exposure, recommend self-testing and mask wearing
- Continue to report cases to school personnel and in turn to CT DPH
- Follow existing quarantine guidance for exposure outside of school

State no longer requires masks be worn in schools after February 28 – local decision



When to Transition

- Data on community and school district prevalence and transmission
- Risk tolerance for the possibility of increasing case numbers
- Current COVID-19 vaccination status
- Planning to support those at greatest risk
- Support for those who wish to continue mask wearing
- Processes for continuous risk assessment and prompt decision making for policies and mitigation strategies going forward
- Advanced contingency planning for potential surges

Mansfield Current Conditions – Case Counts

Week Ending	Number of Cases	% Positive	Case Rate
February 5	36	7.1	40.1 (Red Zone, >15)
February 12	15	5.3	16.8 (Red Zone)
February 19	9	5.6	10.9 (Orange Zone, 11-14)
February 26	8	5.7	11.2 (Orange Zone)

CDC Community Levels for Tolland County
Green – Low

Mansfield Current
Conditions – Cases
within School
Community

**No known transmission in
schools**

Week Ending	# of Days in Count	# of Cases
February 4	4	11
February 11	6	14
February 18	4	6
February 23	3	4
March 4	5	2
March 11	4	3

Mansfield Current Conditions - Vaccination

DPH Data as of March 2:

	Full Population	Ages 5- 11	Ages 12-17
Received 1 st Dose	87%	53%	77%
Fully Vaccinated	82%	49%	71%

Percent MPS Staff
Fully Vaccinated: 96%

Other Changes Since Last Report



CDC GUIDANCE FOR MASK WEARING NOW BASED ON COUNTY LEVEL DATA THAT INCLUDES NOT JUST CASE COUNTS BUT OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS HOSPITAL CAPACITY.



CDC EXEMPTED SCHOOL BUSES FROM THE TSA REQUIREMENT FOR MASKS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 28.



THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD TRANSITIONED TO MASK OPTIONAL AS OF MARCH 1. E.O. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITIONED TO MASK OPTIONAL ON MARCH 2.

MPS Transition Plan

Strategies in Place Remain:

- 3 foot distancing where possible
- Sanitize hands in and out of classrooms (esp. elementary schools)
- Flexible lunchroom practices – respond as needed
- Close contacts from exposure outside of school setting requires 5 day period of quarantine
- COVID positive individuals may return as early as 5 days after onset but use of mask day 6-10 is strongly recommended
- Continue to provide routine breaks for those wearing masks

MPS Transition Plan cont.

- Faculties prepared to create safe space for all students and staff regardless of the individual's decision to wear a mask or not
- Masks become optional on buses
- Request staff and students take at-home test on first day individual does not wear a mask to school
- Continue to make test kits available to families and staff