



AppHealthCare
Appalachian District Health Department
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Caring for our Community

February 18, 2022

Dear school partners,

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect students, staff and families in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very grateful for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our community. We wanted to alert you that we are amending our school related control measures by excluding quarantine after exposure, following the revisions to the [NC DHHS Strong Schools Toolkit](#).

We are incorporating this latest update into our protocols immediately, and ask that as you are collaborating with us that we all utilize this latest guidance by the effective date of February 21, 2022. Note that one ongoing expectation is that positive cases continue to be reported to us and that notification continues to those who may have had exposure so they are aware to monitor for symptoms and seek testing as they see fit. This may be done in a group setting, individually, or by school reporting. We will gladly work with you to see how best we may support the efforts for notification so that we are meeting public health guidance and providing information in ways that is appropriate to your school district.

We remain committed to continued promotion of vaccinations for children since we know that will offer the best protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death while also supporting ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. We appreciate your continued support to message the importance of staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations to staff and families.

Additionally, though we expect written guidance for mask wearing to change March 7, 2022, we encourage ongoing availability of high quality masks for those who may be interested in choosing to wear it, if your Board policy changes or is already mask optional. We are glad to support you in that effort, so please let us know if you have needs that are not being met by another supply process.

Thank you for all your hard work to protect the health of families and our community. We are very grateful for all you do!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Greene, MPH
Health Director

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