



WAYLAND UNION SCHOOLS

H O M E O F T H E W I L D C A T S

Dr. Christina Hinds, Superintendent
Pat Velie, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations
Teresa Fulk, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

850 E. Superior Street, Wayland MI 49348
269.792.2181
waylandunion.org

Friday, October 15, 2021

Dear High School Staff, Students, and Families:

The Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) has identified a COVID-19 outbreak at Wayland Union High School. ACHD recommends universal face masking at Wayland Union High School for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status to reduce the risk of further transmission for at least 14 days from October 7. Additionally, ACHD recommends students and staff identified as a close contact remain at home, unless fully vaccinated, until hearing from the health department. Please see the attached letter from ACHD dated October 14, 2021, for additional details.

On Monday night, the Wayland Union Board of Education (BOE) reviewed COVID-19 mitigation strategies, which are listed on our district website: <https://waylandunion.org/district/covid-19-information/>. Further discussion will be held at the next Board Work Session on Monday, October 25, 2021.

With an identified outbreak, please remember to monitor for symptoms on a daily basis. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend school or any school-sponsored activity until your symptoms have completely resolved.

Thank you, in advance, for doing your part to keep our school and our community healthy. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at hindsc@waylandunion.org.

In partnership,

Dr. Christina M. Hinds

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3255 – 122nd Ave., Suite 200, Allegan, MI 49010

Office Administration

(269) 673-5411 Fax (269) 673-4172

Bioterrorism Preparedness

(269) 673-5411

Personal Health

(269) 673-5411



Communicable Disease

(269) 673-5411

Environmental Health

(269) 673-5415

Resource Recovery

(269) 673-5415

10/14/2021

Wayland

870 E Superior St

Wayland, MI 49348

Dear Christina Hinds,

Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) has identified: An Outbreak Present **(OR)** A Cluster Present at **Wayland High School.**

Clusters in school building present is defined as: “A school associated cluster is defined as multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a specified core group **OR** at least three (3) within a specified core group meeting criteria for a school-associated COVID-19 case; with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other, **AND NO** likely known epidemiologic link to a case outside of the school setting.”

Outbreaks in a school building present is defined as: “Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group **OR** at least three (3) cases within a specified core group meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e. household) outside of the school setting; **AND** epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity.”

Through case investigation, **there has been a total of four associated cases, with the first case having a symptom onset date of 9/29/2021, and the last connected case having an onset of 10/9/2021.** All four associated cases having onsets within a 14-day period. Cases were identified as close contacts in the classroom setting with evidence of transmission occurring on **9/29/2021** through **10/7/2021**. There has been a total of 46 positive students, and 5 staff cases at Wayland High School since the start of the 2021-2022 School Year on 9/1/2021.

Wayland High School has shared mitigation measures currently being used through ACHD’s Back to School survey. These include: Face masks are recommended for students and staff, but not required. Daily symptom screenings for students and staff at their home prior to coming to school. Students and staff who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will remain at home (or be sent home should they become symptomatic after arriving at school). Reminders of frequent hand washing/hand sanitizing throughout the school day. Daily cleaning. Contact tracing to notify those who are close contacts with an individual who is confirmed positive or probable for COVID-19. Space available to partner with ACHD to host mobile vaccination clinics on-site after student hours and/or on non-student days. Space available to partner with ACHD to host COVID-19 testing clinics (utilizing WUS facilities and ACHD staff). Additionally, as weather permits, we are able to open windows; however, we have many interior classrooms without windows. Desks are distanced based on each room; however, we do have classes with 30+ students.

ACHD strongly recommends universal masking of all students and staff regardless of vaccination status at Wayland High School in order to reduce the risk of further transmission. **ACHD recommends that close contacts do not attend school. ACHD recommends universal masking for at least 14 days from 10/7/2021, which was the last known exposure in the school setting.** If additional connected cases are identified, our recommendation is to extend this period so that it is at least 14 days from the newest exposure identified. In addition to masking, **ACHD recommends**

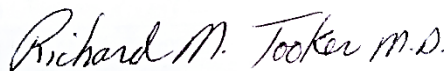
getting tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms, and isolating for 10 days if the test result is positive. ACHD recommends surveillance testing as an added measure to minimize the spread. Using additional mitigation strategies discussed such as daily symptom screening prior to arrival at school ensuring that student or staff experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will remain home or be sent home should they become asymptomatic upon arrival in school, cohorting students, increasing physical distance between desks, increasing ventilation strategies reduces risk.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Thank you,



Angelique Joynes
Health Officer
Allegan County Health Department



Dr. Richard Tooker
Medical Director
Allegan County Health Department