

School Re-Opening Parent Forum

Christina Harrington, MPH Dr. Delicia Pruitt, MD, FAAFP Overall Considerations for Parents

- All options are OK
- There is no one-size-fits-all approach for families
- Multiple decisions within one family with multiple children (some may be virtual and some may be inperson)
- All families should have a back-up plan!
- Risk will NEVER be ZERO!



What We Know About COVID-19

- Novel virus
- Highly contagious
 - Can be spread by symptomatic and asymptomatic infected people
- Most commonly spread from person to person
 - Respiratory droplets: coughing, sneezing, talking, singing



What We Know About COVID-19

- Maintaining 6 feet distance reduces the risk of transmission
- Can be contracted through the eyes, nose, and mouth
- Virus can spread by touching a surface or item with the virus on it



COVID-19 Symptoms

- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure
- 80% of the people who contract the disease have mild symptoms
- Common symptoms:
 - Adults: Cough, Shortness of breath, fever
 - Children: Runny nose, sore throat
- Other symptoms: loss of taste, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, body cramping, sore throat, headache



Most Common Symptoms COVID-19: Kids vs. Adults

Symptom	Kids Review of 7,780 Cases	Adults Review of 24,410 Cases
Fever	59.1%	78%
Cough	55.9%	57%
Runny nose, congestion	20%	13%
Loss of smell or taste	?	29%
Muscle aches, fatigue	18.7%	48% (muscle aches = 17%, fatigue = 31%)
Sore throat	18.2%	12%
Shortness of breath	11.7%	23%
Abdominal pain/diarrhea	6.5%	14%
Vomiting/nausea	5.4%	10%
Headache/dizziness	4.3%	24% (headache = 13%, dizziness = 11%)
Red throat	3.3%	NA
Sources: Hoang, A., Chorath, K., Moreira, A., Evans, M., Burmeister-Morton, F., Burmeister, F., & Moreira, A. (2020). COVID-19 in 7780 pediatric patients: A systematic		

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Grant, M. C., Geoghegan, L., Arbyn, M., Mohammed, Z., McGuinness, L., Clarke, E. L., & Wade, R. (2020). The Prevalence of Symptoms in 24,410 Adults Infected by the Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2; COVID-19): A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of 148 Studies from 9 Countries. Available at SSRN 3582819.

Who is at risk?

- Everyone is at risk unless we take precaution
- Populations who at higher risk
 - Older than 60 years of age
 - Minorities
 - Pre-exiting disease
 - Liver, kidney, and cardiac disease, Diabetes



Who is at risk?

- People who live in congregate settings
 - Jails, long-term care facilities
- Risk for children is low but they can be significantly impacted
 - Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome



What We Don't Know

- When a vaccine will be available
- What spread within schools will look like in the months to come
- Level of immunity in our communities

Remember this virus is approximately 9 months old! We have a lot yet to learn.



Guidance Schools Received

- Michigan's Return to School Road Map
- School administrators meeting(s) in Saginaw
- Toolkit launching this week
- Scenarios developed for schools

All these address prevention strategies to reduce risk for students. EVERYONE's goal is to provide an environment that is as low risk as possible for teachers, staff, and students!



When to Stay Home

COVID-19 SCHOOL UDANCE

When Should A Student Stay Home From School

(or be sent home)



Any time they are sick, regardless of symptoms



Don't assume "it's nothing." Talk to your healthcare provider to be sure.

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Any time they have these symptoms

- Fever, chills/sweating
- Sore throat
- CoughRunny nose
- Diarrhea, vomiting,
- abdominal pain • Severe headache

STOP! STAY HOME!

Contact your healthcare provider to rule out COVID-19 or other illnesses/allergies. If positive for COVID-19, stay out of school until:

- 24 hours without fever with no fever reducing medications, AND
- Significant improvement in symptoms, AND
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first began



Any time they are (or you suspect they are) exposed to COVID-19

Within six feet, for 15 minutes or more, with a confirmed COVID-19 person

STOP! STAY HOME!

Contact your healthcare provider about exposure and testing. If test comes back positive, stay home until:

- 24 hours without fever with no fever reducing medications, AND
- Significant improvement in symptoms, AND
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first began

If test comes back negative, stay home for a full 14 days as the incubation period for COVID-19 is 2-14 days and the disease may not be fully detected by testing if done early in the incubation cycle

Saginaw County HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE

The 3 Ws: How to Best Protect Your Child When Returning to School



These three tried-and-true public health measures are you and your child's best protection against COVID-19 and all communicable diseases. Remember to keep your children home whenever they are sick or potentially exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19. **This will help protect you and those you care about.**

Saginaw County MEALTH DEPARTMENT

1600 N. Michigan Avenue • Saginaw, MI 48602 • (989) 758-3828 • www.saginawpublichealth.org



Five Considerations for Parents

- 1. Consider the level of responsibility for each student/child
- 2. Consider health conditions/status of households & families
- 3. Consider each child's social and emotional wellbeing
- 4. Consider your support system and resources
- 5. Informed consent



How Responsible is your Child?

- Will they follow the rules set in the classroom/school?
- Can they wear a mask all day (if required)?
- Will they practice good hand hygiene?
- Can they limit their movements?
- Do they have self control (keep their hands to themselves)?



How Responsible is your Child? • Will they physically distance themselves from others (6 feet away)?

If Yes – they may handle themselves well in the classroom If No – they would have less risk being at home and less risk for others in the classroom



Health Status of Households & Families

- Does your child have a chronic medical condition or fall within the high-risk category for COVID-19?
- Do you, as a parent/guardian, have a medical condition that falls within the high-risk category for COVID-19?
- Does anyone in your household have a medical condition that falls within the high-risk category for COVID-19?



Health Status of Households & Families Does your child routinely interact with others outside the household (like grandparents) who have a medical condition that falls within the high-risk category for COVID-19?

If Yes – consider virtual learning options for your child/children

If No – consider in-person learning options



Child/ Children's Social & Emotional Well-Being

- Does your child need social interaction?
 - Introvert
 - Wouldn't miss school
 - Needs the social interaction
 - Extrovert
- How emotionally well has your child been while at home during COVID-19?
 - Depression
 - Sadness
 - Lonely
- Would your child do well staying home for an additional year?



Support System or Resources

- Do you have someone to take care of your child at home?
- Do you or someone you know have the expertise to help your children with school work?
- Will your job let you work from home?
- Do have reliable internet connectivity?
- If you're virtual, what food options are available?
 Free lunch



Informed Consent & Decision **Definition:** Permission granted in the knowledge of possible consequences, typically that which is given by a patient to a doctor for a treatment will full knowledge of possible risk and benefits.

A three step process:

- 1. Know the risk and benefits
- 2. Weigh the risk and benefits
- 3. Make a decision





Know the Risk: SAGINAW COUNTY STATISTICS



Saginaw County **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Know the Risk: SAGINAW COUNTY STATS





Know the Risk: SAGINAW COUNTY STATS





Saginaw County Positive Test Rate Over Time



Know the Risk: SAGINAW COUNTY STATS

Positivity rate: 4.6% positive tests Medium high risk

Low risk for deaths





Click and drag in the plot area to zoom in





In School Benefits

- Evidence suggests that infected children are less likely to suffer severe symptoms or death
- Structured learning environment and education
 - Parents don't have to be the teacher
- Supports the development of social and emotional skills
- Creates safe environment for learning
- Addresses nutritional needs
- Facilitates physical activity
- Reduces disparities amongst children





At Home Benefits

- Less risk for contracting COVID-19 to households
 No need to quarantine from school transmission
- Students may be able to learn at their own pace on their own schedules
- Students activities can be monitored
- No disruption in the learning plans
 Back up plans to shift learning are not needed
- Some may experience more comfort in the home environment





Chris Harrington's Decision

- 1. Consider the level of responsibility for each student/child
- 2. Consider health conditions/status of households & families
- 3. Consider each child's social and emotional well-being
- 4. Consider your support system
- 5. Informed decision
 - Kids will go to school





Chris Harrington's Decision

- Will your school allow students to change course?
- What would make you remove your kids from school and go virtual?



Dr. Pruitt's Decision

- 1. Consider the level of responsibility for each student/child
- 2. Consider health conditions/status of households & families
- 3. Consider each child's social and emotional well-being
- 4. Consider your support system
- 5. Informed decision
 - 4 children will attend virtual option
 - 1 child will attend some in-person instruction





Dr. Pruitt's Decision

- Will your school allow students to change course?
- What will make you feel comfortable sending your kids to school?
 - Considering going to school the second half of the year



Overall Considerations for Parents

- All options are OK
- There is no one-size-fits-all approach for families
- Multiple decisions within one family with multiple children (some may be virtual and some may be inperson)
- Risk will NEVER be ZERO!



Questions?

Please feel free to write your question on:

- Facebook Live
- Zoom Chat

