

Addendum to *Outbreak Response Protocols: K-12*, September 2020

In September of 2020, a group of Montana medical providers and state and local health officials issued [Outbreak Response Protocols: K-12](#) to assist schools in planning their response to COVID-19 exposure and/or cases in the school setting. This document serves as an update of the initial guidance, reflecting the developing body of science related to COVID-19 disease and the availability of associated resources. Below is a summary of changes.

1. **DEFINING A “SUSPECT CASE”** (page 4): The “any ONE symptom” category now includes “temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 F or chills.” The initial guidance excluded fever as a major symptom due to its frequency with other seasonal upper respiratory illness and potential for oversensitivity. As the winter respiratory illness season wanes, fever merits reclassification.
2. **PROTOCOLS** (pages 6-9): Since testing is much more readily available at this time, the decision to proceed with testing may occur earlier and at a lower threshold if there are clinical concerns.
3. **PROTOCOL – CONFIRMED CASE** (page 8): A positive antigen test, depending on the circumstances, may be sufficient testing. Consult with local public health for interpretation of antigen testing results.
4. **PROTOCOL – CONFIRMED CASE and CLOSE CONTACT OF A CONFIRMED CASE** (pages 8-9): New data has provided examples where a shortened quarantine duration may be appropriate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document [When to Quarantine](#) provides up-to-date information on quarantine duration. Consultation with local public health is recommended. Anyone 12 years or older in Montana is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. We encourage everyone who is eligible to take full advantage of the benefits of a safe and effective vaccine. Data around quarantine requirements for those who are vaccinated is accumulating – please visit the CDC [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) for the up-to-date information on quarantine duration.
5. **RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER TRAVEL** (page 11): As the U.S. experiences increased reopening, it is important to stay updated on CDC [Travel Guidance](#) and protocols [After International Travel](#).
6. **ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** (page 13): The American Academy of Pediatrics offer up-to-date [COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity](#).
7. **MONTANA SPECIFIC RESOURCES**: The Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics publishes [Montana-specific COVID-19 resources](#), including a *COVID and Kids* Webinar Series. Montana DPHHS publishes information on [Montana Variants of Concern](#).
8. **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**: Studies demonstrate that transmission rates in schools have been well-controlled with appropriate health and safety precautions, including consistent mask use, physical distancing, proper ventilation, and hand washing.

Links to references

1. *Outbreak Response Protocols: K-12*: <https://covid19.mt.gov/docs/Outbreak%20Response%20Protocols%20K-12.pdf>
2. CDC *When to Quarantine*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
3. CDC *Travel Guidance*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
4. CDC *After International Travel*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html#:~:text=Get%20tested%20with%20a%20viral,protect%20others%20from%20getting%20infected.>
5. American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/>
6. Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://www.mtpeds.org/covid-19-resources/>
7. CDC *Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People*: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#anchor_1617376555813
8. CDC *Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html#symptoms>
9. Montana DPHHS *Variants of Concern* <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt/demographics>