

Report to the Board of Education

February 24, 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	FULL REPORT DUE 2/25		10.9 (Orange Zone, 11-14)

CT Positivity Rate for February 11: 4.94%

CT Positivity Rate for February 23: 3.51%

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	2	2

Mansfield Current Conditions - Vaccination

DPH Data for week ending
February 12:

	Full Population	Ages 5- 11	Ages 12-17
Received 1 st Dose	87%	52%	76%
Fully Vaccinated	82%	48%	71%

Percent MPS Staff
Fully Vaccinated: 96%

Other Considerations

Mask Mandate in the town of Mansfield still in place. Will be reviewed at February 28 Town Council meeting.

Masks are required on all public transportation including school buses per TSA until March 18

CDC Guidance for Mask Wearing and Contact Tracing under review

EHHD ready to assist all superintendents