

COVID-19 Response Team Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022

Members Present: Sue Rubbe, Lester Brent, Kelly Avery, Jacqui McGettigan, Fire Chief Steve Heath, Police Chief Will Ulwick, Tim Paquette Absent with Notice: Mary Moriarty

1. **Review of January 14, 2022 minutes:** No changes noted
2. **Review Confirmed Case Tool:** The COVID-19 Response Team reviewed the Confirmed Case Tool. Six positive cases were included.
3. **Decision Making Tool:** The COVID-19 Response Team reviewed local and county data. It was noted that several additional mitigation measures have been put into place.
 - Classroom windows will be open a little to allow for fresh air flow
 - Students will be outdoors for one additional mask break each day
 - Staff will continue to be vigilant about helping student adhere to appropriate social distances
4. **Up To Date Vaccine Status:** The definition for up-to-date vaccine status has been updated to include all available boosters. Boosters are not yet available for students ages 5 – 12 so for now our students who have received two vaccines are considered up-to-date.

This is important to note when reviewing the currently DHHS isolation and quarantine guidelines because the requirements are different between up-to-date and not up-to-date staff and students.

The committee will revisit this at the next meeting to verify if the booster availability has changed.

5. **Parent/Guardian Notifications:** AES has been notifying parents/guardians via email each day that we have identified positive cases in the community. The COVID-19 Response Team agreed that we could move to fewer notifications and discussed several options. The Team agreed that this information would now be included in the daily announcements which are emailed to parents every morning and are available on the school website. A grid will include the number of cases reported on the previous day and the total number of active cases at the end of the previous day. (It was noted that the number of active cases could reflect students who have returned following the five-day isolation guidance. Although they are in school, they are considered active cases until ten days after the beginning their isolation. Students who are quarantining are not included in this information.)
6. **Close Contact Tracing:** Mrs. Avery recommended that we end our close contact tracing phone calls. The COVID-19 Response Team agreed that at this time, all parents should be vigilant about watching for symptoms of COVID-19 regardless of any potential close contact exposure.

NOTE: A letter will be sent home to parents addressing the two changes identified above.
7. **Students Returning After a Five Day Isolation.** It was noted that students returning after a five-day isolation are still 30% contagious. After much discussion, the COVID-19 Response Team agreed to the following guidelines for five days following return:
 - Students will be masked at all times (even outdoors)
 - Classroom teachers should try to identify a safe place for the students to remove their mask and eat snack
 - Students will eat lunch at their regular lunch tables. Staff will be encouraged to maximize social distancing whenever possible. Parents have been notified that they have the option to request that their student not eat lunch with other students who are returning from the five-day isolation
 - Students who participate in close contact/unmasked sports (eg: wrestling) must wait the full 10 days before being allowed to participate.
8. **Next Meeting:** The next COVID-19 Response Team meeting will take place on Friday, January 24, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui McGettigan
Office Manager

**COVID-19 Decision Making Tool
Ashland Elementary School**

Current Mitigation Response Level as of January 14, 2021	Blue—Low transmission	Yellow—Moderate Transmission	Orange-- Substantial Transmission	Red High Transmission
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Date: February 11, 2022

Local & Statewide COVID - 19 Data Review

Active Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in School	9 (Reflects the 10 day active status. Some of these students have returned to school.)
Active Cluster of Cases in School	1 Self-determined in Middle Tier. No DHHS case worker assigned yet.
Active Outbreak of Cases in School	0
Number of Pending Known COVID-19 Tests	unsure
Number of Quarantines	3
Number of Isolations	unsure
Number of Active Cases in Ashland Last Week	24 Active Cases
Number of Active Cases in Ashland	23 Active Cases as of 1/18/2022 39 Active Cases as of 1/21/2022
Grafton County Transmission Level	High Community Transmission/RED
Data Summary	We continue to see high community transmission.

Decision Point:

Does the data review warrant a change in response level?
No—all in agreement

Attendance Are staff absences impacting the ability to effectively supervise students? Are staff absences impacting the ability to effectively provide learning opportunities? Are student absences impacting the ability to learn effectively?	
Staff	Strained
Students	No
Decision Point: Does the data/information on absences warrant a change in response level? No—all in agreement	
Cleaning Supplies	
Status of availability of materials & staff to clean for the next two weeks	Good
Status of availability of materials & staff to clean for the next 2 weeks (or 4 weeks out)	Good
Disposable Masks, Gloves, Disposable Shields/Drapes	Good
Decision Point: Do the current conditions for cleaning warrant a change in response level? No—all in agreement	
Mitigation Efforts	
Face Coverings	Yes
Physical Distancing	We continue to address
Hand Washing	Yes
Limited Illness at School	Yes
Decision Point: Does the level of compliance with mitigation efforts warrant a change in response level? No—all in agreement	

Mitigation Response Level based on transmission levels in the community and the county

Recommended Decision Date: January 24, 2022

**Anticipated Recommended Response Level for
Next Week**

**Orange + with additional new
mitigation practices**

**Anticipated Recommended Response Level for
Next Four Weeks**

TBD

CONFIRMED CASE(S) COVID-19 TOOL

Date: January 21, 2022

School Confirmed Case of COVID-19	Ashland Elementary
Number of Confirmed Cases	6 Confirmed cases from January 14, 2022 to January 20, 2022
Has DHHS identified this as an outbreak?	No
Has DHHS identified this as a cluster?	Yes, Middle School has been identified as a Cluster by DHHS
Description of Confirmed COVID-19	1. General Community 2. Middle Team 3. Team Respect 4. Middle Team 5. Team Integrity 6. Middle Team
Has DHHS made contact with the Confirmed COVID-19 Case(s)?	Unknown
Have close contacts been identified by the School? Close contacts include anyone who was unmasked and closer than three feet for 10 minutes or more.	Yes
Has the School interviewed the confirmed case to review close contacts?	Yes
Have close contacts been contacted by the School?	Yes, through correspondence from Superintendent Moriarty And phone calls from AES staff
Have close contacts been contacted by DHHS?	N/A
Has DHHS identified the source of infection?	Unknown

<p>Has the school identified who might have been in the same area as the confirmed case, however, not be considered close contact?</p>	<p>Yes, all families are encouraged to watch for symptoms with each notification</p>
<p>Has the school contacted individuals who might have been in the same area as the confirmed case, although not considered close contact?</p>	<p>Yes, all families are encouraged to watch for symptoms with each notification</p>
<p>Are there School Activities/School Athletics/School Events that had contact with the confirmed case(s)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Are there any known overlaps between school buildings within the School District?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Are there any known overlaps with respect to school transportation in the School District?</p>	<p>Several student did use school transportation. This information was included in those specific notifications.</p>
<p>Are there any staffing concerns as a result of the confirmed case(s)?</p>	<p>We are strained by are managing</p>
<p>Have the areas identified as being used by the confirmed case(s) been cleaned and are ready for use?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Upcoming School Activities/Athletics/Events</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Summary of Most Recent State/Local Data	High Community Transmission 23 Active cases in Ashland
Current Mitigation Response Level	ORANGE Plus
DHHS Recommendation	Nothing additional
Recommended Mitigation Response Level	ORANGE
Recommendations Relative to School Activities/Athletics/Events	None

