

MEDIA RELEASE

Information Advisory Warning Update

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St. Clair County Health Department Issues Revised County Public Health Order

The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) issued a revised Public Health Order for COVID-19 quarantine measures. The revised Order takes place immediately and replaces the August 20, 2021 Order and remains in effect until further Order of the Medical Health Officer.

Revisions were necessary to include options allowed by the CDC and MDHHS in various settings. Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer for St Clair County stated, *“The goal is to reduce viral transmission risk while allowing the most flexibility for in-person learning and maintaining an intact workforce. There is considerable variations in risk depending on individual situations and we hope that this order clarifies those differences while still protecting our community. We acknowledge the fluid nature of these quarantine options but also emphasize that they are based on the best-evidence and practice outlined by the consensus of experts in the field, with the primary goal of reducing the negative impact of COVID-19 infections”*.

“Quarantine” is when you may have been exposed to COVID 19 (within 6 feet of an infected individual for 15 minutes, cumulative or consecutive) but are not having any symptoms. **“Isolation”** should occur once you have tested positive or become ill and typically lasts 10 days regardless of vaccination status, masking or work/home environment. Both are important and effective tools to prevent spread of disease.

The revised Order outlines expanded **quarantine** options for:

- 1) 7 day quarantine with testing at or after day 5 OR a 10 day quarantine without testing (for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, masked or unmasked) for all residents.

- 2) Fully vaccinated individuals (masked or unmasked): additional precautions for testing and masking after exposure for all residents.
- 3) Students in a **universal masked setting** have expanded exemptions for quarantine including quarantine exemptions with exposure >3 feet and a “Test to Stay” option with serial, daily testing while remaining in the classroom with exposures <3 feet.
- 4) Students in an un-masked (or partially masked) setting have a 10 day without testing or a 7 day with testing quarantine option.

SCCHD issues orders pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as R. 325.175(4), which is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d).

For the full order and additional resources, visit www.scchealth.co

The St. Clair County Health Department continues to monitor the situation and will respond accordingly to best protect our community.

Updates are available on the health department website www.scchealth.co and on social media @scchdmi.

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