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Health Services' COVID-19 Update

Dr. Katika D. Lovett, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Dr. Valencia Hildreth, Health Services Director

Juliana Prieto, District Epidemiologist

Board of Education Meeting

January 10, 2022

Agenda



Purpose

To provide public health data updates and an overview of the district's expanded COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Roadmap

- ▶ Public Health Data
- ▶ Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance
- ▶ Expanded Mitigation Measures

Takeaway

APS remains committed to the health and safety of our students and staff by developing guidelines in accordance with recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control.

Epidemiology Update:

Public Health Data and DPH Guidance

COVID-19 Cases by Region

THE FOLLOWING ANALYSES (PAGES 1-19) ARE USING DATA ON CONFIRMED CASES ONLY.

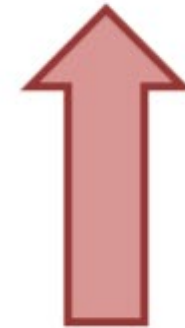
DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 CASES BY REGION

New cases: 41% of the new COVID-19 cases in the past 2 weeks occurred in Atlanta while 29% and 26% occurred in the Northern and Southern regions of the county respectively.

Fulton Region	% Cumulative count	% New cases*
Atlanta	43.0%	41.2%
North ¹	31.5%	29.4%
South ²	22.5%	26.1%
Unincorporated/Unknown	3.0%	3.3%

¹Includes all Fulton County cities north of Atlanta (Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell, Sandy Springs,) | ²Includes all cities south of Atlanta (Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Palmetto, South Fulton, and Union City) ***New cases:** Cases diagnosed in the past 2 weeks only (between 12/16/21 – 12/29/21).

In the recent two week reporting period (12/16-12/29), there were more new cases of COVID-19 in Fulton County than the previous two weeks (12/2-12/15).



*Delayed a week to account for testing results turnaround time.

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Source: FCBOH Epidemiology Report: <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/covid-19/epidemiology-reports>

County Level Community Transmission

(CDC, 1.6.2022)



DeKalb County, Georgia

[State Health Department](#)

7-day Metrics | [7-day Percent Change](#)

Community Transmission ● High

Everyone in **DeKalb County, Georgia** should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.

[How is community transmission calculated?](#)

January 6, 2022

Cases	9,064
Case Rate per 100k	1,193.74
% Positivity	38.22%
Deaths	<10
% of population ≥ 5 years of age fully vaccinated	38.6%
New Hospital Admissions	349

Fulton County, Georgia

[State Health Department](#)

7-day Metrics | [7-day Percent Change](#)

Community Transmission ● High

Everyone in **Fulton County, Georgia** should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.

[How is community transmission calculated?](#)

January 6, 2022

Cases	16,025
Case Rate per 100k	1,506.2
% Positivity	39.99%
Deaths	<10
% of population ≥ 5 years of age fully vaccinated	35.3%
New Hospital Admissions	883

Source: CDC COVID Data Tracker <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

Mask Wearing Protocol Updates:

Community Transmission Levels per DPH (1.6.2022)

	DeKalb County		Fulton County	
	7-Day Case Rate per 100K	PCR % Positive (7-day)	7-Day Case Rate per 100K	PCR % Positive (7-day)
29-Nov	42	3.50%	47	3.60%
6-Dec	48	3.80%	56	4.10%
13-Dec	68	3.90%	79	4.30%
20-Dec	117	8.80%	153	9.70%
27-Dec	449	24.20%	642	27.00%
6-Jan *	1194	38.22%	1506	39.99%

Data retrieved from the County Indicator Reports published by the Department of Public Health (DPH): <https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports>
 *CDC County Indicators were used for the Jan 3 reporting period due to technical delays experienced by DPH. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Community Transmission Levels Explained:

- ❖ Low Transmission (Blue): Counties with fewer than 10 cumulative cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, and a cumulative NAAT percent test positivity result below 5% in the past 7 days.
- ❖ Moderate Transmission (Yellow): Counties with 10-49 cumulative cases per 100,000 population or a cumulative NAAT test positivity result between 5.0-7.9% in the past 7 days.
- ❖ Substantial Transmission (Orange): Counties with 50-99 cumulative cases per 100,000 population or a cumulative NAAT test positivity result between 8.0-9.9% in the past 7 days.
- ❖ High Transmission (Red): Counties with cumulative cases ≥ 100 per 100,000 population or a cumulative NAAT test positivity result $\geq 10.0\%$ in the past 7 days.

Mask Wearing Protocol Reminder



Starting from January 2022, APS will observe the levels of community transmission for **both Fulton and Dekalb County**.

APS will utilize transmission levels obtained from the weeks of Jan 16th and Jan 24th to make decisions on masking for the February 1, 2022 date. Transmission levels are updated by the Department of Public Health every Monday and take into account data from the 7 previous days.

A decision will be communicated by the end of Jan 28, 2022 via all communication channels.

- If **both Fulton and Dekalb County have been in the “Moderate”** range for the weeks of Jan 16th and Jan 24th, masks will become optional starting February 1.
- If **either Fulton OR Dekalb County** were in the **“Substantial”** or **“High”** community transmission range for the weeks of Jan 16th or Jan 24th, masks will still be required on February 1.

APS will continue to monitor COVID-19 community transmission levels on a weekly basis and will adjust masking protocols as necessary.

Updated DPH Isolation Guidance (1.7)



- ❖ Individuals are still recommended to isolate for 10 days.
- ❖ **HOWEVER, individuals may be able to leave isolation after 5 days if they meet certain criteria. If they leave isolation early they are still required to wear a mask for the 10 full days.**
 - **Discontinuing isolation early if person was symptomatic**
 - At least 5 days* have passed since *symptoms first appeared* and
 - At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved
 - **Discontinuing isolation early if person has NO symptoms**
 - At least 5 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and they remain asymptomatic
 - Note, if they later develop symptoms, they should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons above.

Updated DPH Quarantine Guidance (1.7)

The recommended quarantine period is 10 days

However, individuals may leave quarantine after 5 full days have passed since their most recent exposure if,

- ❖ They do **NOT** experience any symptoms of COVID-19
- ❖ Continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for the 10 days post exposure

Individuals DO NOT need to quarantine if

- ❖ They previously tested positive in the past 90 days
- ❖ They are up-to-date on their vaccinations
 - It has been at least 14 days but less than 5 months since the completion of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccination series,
 - It has been at least 14 days (2 weeks) but less than 2 months since receiving a 1-dose vaccine,
 - It has been more than 5 months since completion of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2 months since a 1-dose vaccine, but they have received a booster,

Regardless of vaccination status, all persons exposed to COVID-19 should

- ❖ Wear a well-fitted mask for the 10 days following an exposure
- ❖ Seek testing on day 5 after last day of exposure
- ❖ Monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure
 - Individuals who develop symptoms after an exposure will need to isolate

Expanded Mitigation Measures:

COVID-19 Surveillance Testing for Students

Test to Stay Protocol for Students and Staff

Pivot to Virtual Learning Decision Making Matrix

COVID-19 Surveillance Testing



- Upon our return to in-person learning, we will continue our mandatory **twice per week staff surveillance testing**.
- In addition, we are **increasing our student testing to twice per week**. This means all students with parental consent to receive weekly COVID-19 surveillance tests at their school will be tested twice per week moving forward (as opposed to our once per week student testing offered last semester.) Though participation in surveillance testing is not required for students, it is strongly encouraged.

COVID Testing Consent Form: [STUDENTS](#) | [STAFF](#)

Test to Stay (TTS) Protocol

What is Test to Stay (TTS)?

- A practice comprised of contact tracing and serial testing to allow school/work-associated close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to continue in-person learning/work during their 10-day quarantine period.
- Test to Stay is offered to unvaccinated close contacts as an alternative to quarantining at home. Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine at home **BUT** it is encouraged that they continue to participate in surveillance testing.
- Test to Stay should **not** be used for individuals who previously tested positive in the past 90 days.

TTS: Eligibility Criteria

Who is eligible

- Must be an APS student or employee
- COVID-19 exposure must have occurred at school, work, or any other school-related activity.
- The close contact must remain asymptomatic and be able to practice consistent mask wearing for **10 full days after exposure**.
- The close contact must participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing

Who is NOT eligible

- Unvaccinated individuals **without** surveillance testing consent are not able to participate in Test to Stay. These close contacts will be required to complete their **10-day quarantine at home**. **Exceptions:** individuals may seek a COVID-19 test at a private healthcare provider or government testing site and documentation must be provided to designated school officials throughout the testing period.
- Close contacts exposed outside of school, work, or any other school-related activity will be required to complete their **10-day quarantine** at home.

TTS: Testing Requirements

In adherence with APS's Surveillance testing protocol,

- Close contacts will be tested twice per week on the school's designated testing dates

Close contacts may also be tested at a private healthcare provider or government testing location, BUT they must provide documentation to designated school officials prior to reporting to school or work

- Testing should occur early in the incubation period (as soon as the exposure is identified) **and** on or after the 5th day of quarantine
- Testing can be through Rapid Antigen or PCR testing
- No Home tests are accepted.

TTS: Who is a “close contact”?

- Someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).
- An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic people, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet the criteria for ending isolation.
 - **Exception:** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
 - This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#:~:text=Close%20Contact,-Definition,-Close%20Contact%20through>

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The APS Pivot-to-Virtual Decision-Making Matrix



APS will base all decisions on virtual versus in-person learning (for individual schools) on the following factors:

1
The overall school positivity rate of COVID-19 detection is equal to or greater than 5% of the student/staff population.



2
The county in which the school is located is experiencing high community spread as defined by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

If **both** conditions exist, then...



- APS will assess the information gathered as part of our standard case investigation protocol.
- APS will assess the impact on our instructional staffing and operations.
- APS will consult with the local department of public health for additional guidance before a final decision is made.



