



**Member Matters: New School-Related Guidelines From the State  
Chat Log  
Jan. 12, 2021**

12:12:56 From Amy Hochkammer : What will happen to the county level determinations. Currently Oakland County is at an E status which tells districts to use remote/virtual learning

12:15:22 From Denise DuFort : will voluntary program for rapid testing be limited?

12:16:11 From susan baskett : Agreed, same here in Washtenaw county. I would appreciate same clarity. Seems like the Gov. says to ignore all of the numbers we have been diligently monitoring over the last few weeks.

12:17:04 From susan baskett : "Safe measures" were 32 cases per 10K. Some of us have more than that now, but parents don't want to hear that. They are beating their children' lives on the Gov's 'goal' of March 1.

12:17:30 From Jennifer Cook : Can you comment on any increased availability for testing for our staffs and students--will districts have access to rapid tests gratis or for purchase that we can have "in house"

12:18:36 From Jason Svec : If testing is offered for schools who will be responsible for the cost

12:18:59 From susan baskett : May we receive a copy of these slides?

12:19:37 From Tim Hall : substitute teachers and other district substitute positions be el

12:19:43 From Cindy Immonen : Yes, getting a copy would be awesome.

12:20:19 From Tim Hall : Will substitute teachers and other district substitute positions be eligible for the vaccine in Phase 1B?

12:20:57 From Brandy Johnson : @Amy Hochkammer: We've advised the local health departments to utilize our guidance – but ultimately they are still able to provide their recommendations. We have moved away from using phases or status (like E) as the key indicators for reopening/closing decisions.

12:22:02 From Brandy Johnson : At this time, Board Members are not eligible for vaccination yet (unless they are health care workers, first responders, over 65, etc) – but I will share this feedback with MDHHS in hopes of adding them explicitly to future phases.

12:23:12 From Jason Shane : When talking about schools not being a major risk, do you mean full time or hybrid? What population density and class size are you talking about? Or does it even matter as long as they are following the guidelines?

12:23:42 From Linda Van Houten : If staff have received the COVID vaccine would you still test them?

12:23:46 From Brandy Johnson : @denise dufort: We have enough testing capacity to, minimally, offer supplies to every school to test every educator (including support staff, building admin staff, etc) once per week for the remainder of the school year. If a district was interested in testing more frequently, or wanted to test students, let's talk!

12:23:59 From susan baskett : "Most people" follow the rules in schools, but it only takes a few to cause a major infection. What then?

12:24:19 From Roland Hwang : Can you address the special needs programs in discussing safety protocol changes?

12:24:22 From susan baskett : Let's talk cost and any financial assistance.

12:25:16 From Brandy Johnson : @jennifer cook: The state will be providing these supplies for FREE to schools.

12:25:34 From susan baskett : Ok! Sign us up!

12:26:33 From Wilfred Cwikiel : How many districts across the state will be able to participate in this rapid testing program?

12:26:48 From Christine Baker : what is capacity for the testing opportunity? process for applying as a district?

12:27:02 From Maryanne VanHaitsma : optional Weekly testing will require quite a number of tests, how will this be distributed to schools, and how will the number provided be determined if limited supply?

12:27:57 From susan baskett : Is this a one-time distribution or for a few weeks?

12:28:04 From Patrick Kehoe : If we are moving away from phases, or status (i.e. A-E), are there any metrics that we can look at to increase or decrease density or in person education? In other words, how or when should we shut down, do hybrid, or full time face to face? If we were in the situation that Los Angeles is in would we shut down?

12:28:44 From Irene Watts : Can you add the MASB link here?

12:29:00 From Brandy Johnson : @Jason Svec: The state will provide the cost of tests - The state has them available and will ship them, and provide the training.

12:29:17 From Brandy Johnson : We can definitely email the slides

12:29:57 From susan baskett : Why the move from phases and levels? They were good enough before, why change now? Political pressure?

12:30:10 From Irene Watts : When can we begin receive rapid tests?

12:31:21 From Brandy Johnson : @susan baskettt: No, nothing to do with political pressure. We are committed to using data and science in making decisions. The Phase system was developed last spring, and we have learned a great deal since then about which activities are low-risk and those that are high-risk.

12:31:35 From Brandy Johnson : We will send out the slides

12:33:34 From Randel Meisner : Do school Custodians and other support staff fit into the list to receive the vaccine ?

12:34:01 From Jeff Zielke : It was mentioned that its available for face to face for the first round? Can you verify this

12:34:18 From Jennifer Smith : @randell Meisner - yes, if they have direct contact with students, they are eligible for the vaccine.

12:35:28 From Marty Cardamone : Population density varies widely around the State, southern Oakland and Macomb, and most of Wayne County are very densely populated so is that accounted for in risk factors for our area?

12:35:56 From Deborah Anderson : Due to the limited availability of the vaccine, when do we anticipate being able to vaccinate all interested and eligible staff?

12:35:58 From Jay Kulbertis : What will be the mechanism for requesting the tests and training? Will local districts work through their ISD, or directly with the state?

12:36:41 From Roland Hwang : Can we address the special needs programs, those students who may not be able wear masks, in terms of protocol changes and timing for vaccines for staff in the programs.

12:38:53 From Greg Fuller : If someone has been vaccinated will they need to quarantine if determined to be a close contact to someone with COVID-19

12:39:58 From Christine Baker : So someone vaccinated can't spread the virus? Have heard other health sources say they can.

12:41:04 From Jennifer Smith : [Michigan.gov/schoolcovidtesting](https://www.michigan.gov/schoolcovidtesting)

12:41:06 From susan baskettt : Is contact tracing now eliminated?

12:41:09 From Denise DuFort : links to access Thursday program please!

12:42:03 From Brandy Johnson : [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_104699--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_104699--,00.html)

12:42:13 From Jennifer Smith : MASB's site with all COVID-19 info is [www.masb.org/covid19](http://www.masb.org/covid19)

12:42:21 From Stacy Bogard : @Denise DuFort:  
[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%253ameeting\\_NjRmNjBjYzMtY2JmYS00ZDU1LTgwYWQtMWU2YTZmZGJhMWMz%2540thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522d5fb7087-3777-42ad-966a-892ef47225d1%2522%252c%25220id%2522%253a%2522a40b4cf6-eed5-432b-9871-3af1fbc12ce2%2522%252c%2522IsBroadcastMeeting%2522%253a%257d&data=04%7C01%7CHolbenJ%40michigan.gov%7C45c0956c768547dc15d008d8b68ca014%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637460062392563736%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mNdp%2Fjt%2FGs1Y%2BtVq4f3bOLgYWAWXXngV%2BBGDYWcU5Y%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%253ameeting_NjRmNjBjYzMtY2JmYS00ZDU1LTgwYWQtMWU2YTZmZGJhMWMz%2540thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522d5fb7087-3777-42ad-966a-892ef47225d1%2522%252c%25220id%2522%253a%2522a40b4cf6-eed5-432b-9871-3af1fbc12ce2%2522%252c%2522IsBroadcastMeeting%2522%253a%257d&data=04%7C01%7CHolbenJ%40michigan.gov%7C45c0956c768547dc15d008d8b68ca014%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C0%7C637460062392563736%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mNdp%2Fjt%2FGs1Y%2BtVq4f3bOLgYWAWXXngV%2BBGDYWcU5Y%3D&reserved=0)

12:43:08 From Stacy Bogard : The Thursday webinar is at 10 a.m.

12:43:13 From Jeff Zielke : In person vs. virtual learning. Are the In-person in line before virtual to receive the vaccinations? How is this distributed?

12:43:40 From Liz Goodwin : Do we need to register for the Thursday webinar?

12:44:49 From Don Wotruba : @susan baskett - a study was conducted on school populations in Michigan and Washington that shows clearly that schools have managed this well generally no matter their rates in the community.

12:44:52 From susan baskett : Did any of these studies include a respectable number of poor, Black and Brown children? Typically, these populations are left out.

12:46:27 From susan baskett : Therefore, WHAT should we be measuring?

12:47:16 From Stacy Bogard : Registration is not required for the Thursday webinar. The recording will also be posted on the state website.

12:49:05 From Jeff Kartes : If someone has been vaccinated, do they need to quarantine if determined to be a close contact to someone with COVID-19

12:49:11 From Irene Watts : We can apply for the antigen test next week, when can we anticipate then have the tests in hand?

12:50:26 From Jeff Zielke : Thank you. it was regarding the vaccine.

12:50:43 From Brandy Johnson : <https://epicedpolicy.org/does-in-person-schooling-contribute-to-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

12:52:04 From Brandy Johnson : Strunk, Katharine <kstrunk@msu.edu>

12:52:42 From Denise Cody : Regarding opening schools, we have an issue with securing sub teachers when a our teachers are quarantined or test positive. We have lists that we work from, but this still remains challenging. We are open (remote on Wednesday). Any additional suggestions?

12:57:15 From Shawn Bishop : May I ask that we consider rural areas and access to vaccines as we role things out. We are currently K-12 face to face instruction and being told by our local health department we are at least 4 weeks from vaccines for staff... while I have friends in the Lansing area that are teaching remotely saying have already had the first dose already. Please keep in mind the rural school systems.

12:57:43 From Jennifer Smith : @denise cody there was a push to open up who can sub during the end of last session (December). The only success was opening up the critical shortage list and allowing retirees to return to sub faster (after 30 days instead of 1 year). We know this isn't the most helpful, but it was the only thing we could get done on the legal side.

12:58:28 From Melissa Baldwin : is the training for administering the tests going to be as tests are received or open to anyone in anticipation

12:59:04 From Eric Greene : Quick question: Can school boards start meeting in-person after Jan. 15?

13:00:26 From Christopher Mumby : This was extremely helpful! Thank you for hosting this today.

13:01:41 From Lisa Efros : Michigan has relaxed the requirement for subs...they need to be over 18 and have completed the equivalent of two years of college. Our district raised the per diem sub pay but still has a problem finding available subs.

13:01:53 From Lana Ford : This was a VERY informational session. Thank you all for your expertise.

13:01:54 From susan baskett : Yes, thank you for having this.

13:02:02 From Jennifer Smith : @eric greene MDHHS is expected to update the current pandemic order this week, we'll know more then.

13:02:07 From Deb Hunter : Any idea if negative Antigen Test result could shorten quarantine in the event of an exposure? In either vaccinated or non-vaccinated person?

13:02:09 From Lisa McIntyre : Thanks! This was great!

13:02:13 From Deborah Anderson : Thank you!

13:02:18 From Dr. Shawn K. Wightman : Thank you MASB for doing this and keeping us informed...

13:02:20 From Wilfred Cwikiel : Thank you all very much! Greetings from Beaver Island!

13:02:31 From Eric Greene : @jennifersmith, thank you. I was hoping you'd have some inside info. :)

13:02:33 From Roland Hwang : Thank you for the info.

13:02:44 From Maryanne VanHaitsma : Thank you to MASB for providing this session.

13:02:47 From Denise DuFort : THANKS TO ALL , great info!

13:02:53 From Cate Rutter : Thank you for the information.

13:02:58 From Jessie Cloman : Thank You MASB!

13:03:04 From Tracee Behnke-Lentz : Thank you for all of this information. Hello from the Tawas area.

13:03:09 From Denise Cody : Thank you! Great information!

13:03:12 From Alexa Stechschulte : Thank you!

13:03:23 From Caroll Turpin : Thank you for the information!

13:03:32 From Irene Watts : Thank you for all the information!

13:04:05 From Randel Meisner : Thank you for the vaccine information

13:04:08 From Andy Phelps : Thank you!

13:04:13 From Debbie Walton : Thank you so much. This was extremely informative.

13:04:15 From Brandy Johnson : Thank you MASB!!!

13:04:20 From Mary Hall-Rayford : Thank you!

13:04:24 From Jessica Totty : Thank you for this valuable information. Great job everyone. Greeting from Port Huron, MI. Have a great Tuesday. Stay safe.

13:04:29 From Lisa Hanes : thank you

13:04:30 From Monica Fink : Thank you all!

13:04:31 From Jeff McCubbin : Thank You.

13:04:44 From Ashanti Bland : Great info thank you

13:04:47 From Pete Kelto : Thank you.

13:04:52 From Lauren Christenson : Thank you!

13:04:56 From James Canham : Thank you.