



635 North Erie Street
 Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317
 419.213.4100
 419.213.4017 Fax
 boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH
 Health Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Contact: Shannon Lands, PIO
 419.213.4143

November 25, 2020

Board of Health Issues Order on Virtual Learning and Extracurricular Activities

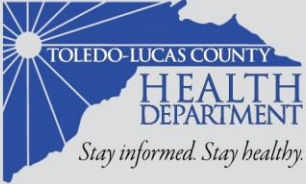
Community spread conditions continue to worsen in Lucas County with average cases per day exceeding 230 and a positivity rate between 15% and 20%. Lucas County has been designated as a "Red" or high-risk county and is approaching the highest risk level, "Purple." This level indicates very high exposure and community spread and all in-person activities should be limited as much as possible.

It is imperative to mitigate the potential increase of COVID cases in our schools and our community. With the understanding that students perform best when physically present in school, and that significant disease spread is greatest with increased interaction between persons, the following order was developed through deliberate and extensive consideration to protect schools, attempt to limit the community spread of COVID-19, and focus available resources and mitigation strategies towards those with greatest need.

The Lucas County Regional Board of Health passed a resolution during today's special board meeting ordering the following:

All Lucas County Schools, including public, private, charter, and parochial schools, will close all school buildings from December 4, 2020 at 4:00 pm to January 11, 2021 at 8:00 am. The Board highly recommends that all schools not wait until December 4 but to close immediately. Due to anticipated issues with students in grades K-6 (unless the school configuration is grades K-8 who can follow K-6 orders), schools may remain open but may only open those facilities required to provide in-person education for students in those grades. Schools have the discretion to allow the education of grades K-6 (or grades K-8 as described above) to be virtual, to continue with a hybrid in-person/virtual schedule, or, as the order allows, to remain open for in-person education. Schools may open to hold religious educational classes or religious ceremonies. Education for Grades 7-12 (or 9 to 12 depending on school configuration) will be virtual from December 4th until January 11th. All school buildings may open to hold exams, staff to provide virtual instruction, and for special needs education requiring in- person instruction.

All sports and extracurricular activities are prohibited from utilizing any school building's interior space for practice or contests during this same period.



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The Health Department will continue the conversations and collaboration with local school boards, to ensure the safest decisions are made, while protecting the health of students, teachers, and faculty.

For additional educational resources, school guidance, and full version of the order, please visit: <https://lucascountyhealth.com/coronavirusupdates/>.

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