

COVID-19 School Updates

August 22, 2022

New Guidance

- New guidance was released on August 22, 2022.
 - [NYS DOH COVID-19 Schools & Youth Webpage](#)
 - [2022-23 School Year Joint DOH-SED Letter to Schools](#)
 - [2022-23 School Year FAQs for Schools](#)
 - [2022-23 School Year FAQs for Parents and Caregivers](#)
 - [CDC Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care Settings](#)

Updates

- Quarantine

- Quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 is no longer required.
- People who have a known exposure should mask for 10 days and test at day 5 or earlier if symptoms appear.

- Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is no longer required.
- The nurse in elementary schools and self-contained secondary classrooms will continue to send home a letter notifying of a positive case in a classroom. This is the same procedure that is performed for other infectious diseases. A test kit will also be sent home with the letter.

Illness & Positive Case Reporting

- Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 are still required to test prior to their return to school or stay home for at least five full days from the onset of symptoms.
 - Staff and students will be able to use home tests.
 - Staff should date and initial the home test and provide an image to Benefits.
 - Benefits will follow-up if the test is positive.
 - If the test is negative and symptoms would not otherwise keep the staff member from reporting to work, the staff member can report to work.
 - Staff that test positive also need to report using the daily health screening and contact COVID response at covid.response@rcsd12.org
 - Families need to report testing results to the nurse. When possible, an image should be provided.
 - Nurses will offer to test negative students at school.
 - If a student becomes symptomatic while at school, nurses will offer to test the student. If the family does not consent the student will have to be picked up.
 - Nurses will report positive student cases to COVID Response.

Returning After Isolation

- Individuals can return after 5 full days of isolation provided their symptoms are improving and they have been fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If a person is asymptomatic they can return 5 full days after testing positive.
 - If symptoms develop, the isolation period restarts with Day 0 being the first day of symptom onset.
- Masking will be required through day 10.

Masking

- Masks are not required unless returning after being positive for COVID-19 on Days 6-10 or riding public transportation (RTS).
 - Masks must be worn for five full days after returning from being positive for COVID-19. If a person cannot or will not wear a mask, they cannot remain onsite.
 - Masking is still required on public transportation in New York State.
 - Students will not be allowed to ride on a RTS bus without a mask.
- Masks are recommended after a known exposure.
- Masks may be worn by anyone at anytime and continue to be available in buildings.
- Masking may be recommended based on community infection level or building case numbers.

Other Updates

- Cohorting is no longer required.
- Physical distancing is no longer required.
- The NYS Daily Report is no longer required.
- The daily health screening survey only needs to be filled out if the individual is symptomatic or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Weekly testing of unvaccinated staff is no longer required.
- Offering weekly student testing is no longer required.
- Cleaning will continue daily as recommended by the CDC. Disinfection will happen if an individual who tested positive was in a building within the last 24 hours.