



# RCSD Summary of the New York State Department of Health Masking Guidance Update

Below is a summary of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) masking guidance update from February 28, 2022. To review the complete update, please [click here](#). As these rules shift or we become aware of additional information or clarifications, we will share them with you. **It is important to note that all of the information below is based on our current rate of transmission and other deciding factors as outlined by the NYSDOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This information could change if the circumstances change.**

- New York State's mask mandate in schools has ended effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022.
  - Students, staff, and visitors will no longer be required to wear a mask in any school setting (this includes on the yellow school buses) unless they have tested positive for COVID-19 and are returning after five days of isolation.
  - Currently, per NYS and Federal requirements, **students who ride RTS will still be required to wear a mask while on the bus.**
- Any individual **who has tested positive for COVID-19 and is in the school environment following five days of isolation must wear a mask through the 10th day following the date of their initial isolation.**
  - Individuals who test positive will be home in isolation five full days and will be required to wear a mask through the end of the 10th day.
  - If an individual cannot or will not wear a mask, they will not be able to return to school/work until the end of their 10th day of isolation.
- It is also strongly recommended (not required) that individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, in or out of school, wear a mask for ten days following their exposure. Anyone who may have been exposed is asked to wear a mask. Staff and students are no longer required to be excluded from school due to a school exposure.
  - All known potential exposures to an individual with COVID-19 will be notified. If a child is in a class with a positive student, the family will receive a notification from the school via robocall.
  - Families and staff will no longer receive weekly calls about positive cases from their school. Positive case information by building can be found by at [www.rcsdk12.org/covid19](http://www.rcsdk12.org/covid19).
  - All individuals with a potential exposure will be asked to wear a mask for ten days from the date of the notification.

## Elementary Students

- Students who have an identified positive case in their classroom will be provided a home test kit and a notification letter to take home. The notification letter will include that their child was potentially exposed, how to use the test kit, what to do if their child tests positive or is symptomatic, and that it is strongly recommended their child mask for the next ten days. Mask wear is no longer mandated for an exposure. Parents will be asked to test their child that day and five days later. Parents will also receive a robocall about this exposure.
- A robocall will be sent to families if their child rode a yellow bus with an individual that tested positive for COVID-19. Families will not automatically receive a test kit for bus exposure. If families would like a test kit sent home with their child, they will be instructed to contact the school nurse.
- Families, please notify your child's school if they test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19.

## Secondary Students

- Students who have a positive case identified in any of their classes will be notified by robocall. If families would like a test kit sent home with their child, they will be instructed to contact the school nurse to request one.
  - The robocall will include that their child was potentially exposed, how to request a test kit, what to do if their child is symptomatic, and that it is strongly recommended that their child mask for the next ten days. Mask wear is no longer mandated for an exposure.
  - Test kits will go home with instructions on how to use the test kit, to test on the date the test kit is brought home and five days later, and what to do if their child tests positive or is symptomatic.
- Families will also receive a robocall if their child rides a yellow bus and there is an individual that tested positive on their bus. If a student rides RTS, they will be masked and will not have had the potential for an exposure.
- Families, please notify your child's school if they test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19.

## Staff

- Staff will be notified of a positive student case in their classrooms via robocall, phone call, or email. Staff that are identified as contacts by other staff will continue to be notified as they were prior to the update (typically by email or phone). Staff will be provided a rapid test kit upon request. If you test positive, please notify Benefits, COVID Response, and your supervisor.
  - The District has a supply of rapid home test kits and KN95 masks that will be provided to staff upon request.
  - Families can also request that a rapid test kit be sent home with their child by contacting the school nurse. Each school also has a supply of KN95 masks for students. Families may contact the school to have one supplied to their child, or students can simply request one at school.
  - Optional weekly surveillance testing will continue for students. For more information about signing up students for weekly surveillance testing, [click here](#). Per NYS mandate, staff that are not fully vaccinated will still need to be tested weekly.
  - **Symptomatic students and staff** will still have to provide a lab confirmed negative COVID-19 test to be able to return to school/work, or they will have to stay out at least five days from their symptom start date. Home test kits are only permitted when testing positive. Please report your positive test to the Monroe County Department of Public Health by [clicking here](#). Families should notify the child's school, and staff must notify Benefits, COVID Response, and their supervisor.
  - Updates to CDC guidance and community transmission level mitigation strategies can be found by [clicking here](#).
  - NYS also provided an FAQ related to the updated guidance that can be found by [clicking here](#).