



COVID-19 Guidance for the 2022-2023 School Year

The following guidance provides best practices for schools during the 2022-2023 school year to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff.

Getting Vaccinated

Vaccination is the best way to prevent COVID-19. Encourage eligible students and staff to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.

- Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations includes getting all booster doses (for everyone who is eligible) and additional doses (for some people who are immunocompromised). For more information, visit bit.ly/cdc-covid-vaccination-schedules.
- Nonpublic schools can establish policies for students or staff to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations to attend school or work.
- All New York City public school students and staff who participate in high-risk Public School Athletic League sports or competitive after-school sports, and students who participate in high-risk after-school extracurricular activities (such as chorus, musical theater and dance teams) must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, per a Commissioner's Order. To read the Commissioner's Order, visit on.nyc.gov/covid-vaccination-extracurricular.

Wearing Masks

A mask helps protect the person who is wearing it, and helps prevent people — including those who have COVID-19 and do not know they are sick — from spreading the virus to others. Schools should establish “mask- positive” environments so those who wear a mask feel comfortable.

- Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask when:
 - Returning to school after testing positive for COVID-19 through Day 10 after their symptoms began or their positive test date (whichever is earlier). This includes when traveling on a school bus.
 - Entering their school's medical room or nurse's office, or a school-based health center
 - Exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms at school
- Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask:
 - After being exposed to someone who has COVID-19, whether the exposure occurred in or outside of school. Students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should wear a mask for 10 days after their last exposure and get tested on Day 5.
 - If they are moderately to severely immunocompromised and masking is recommended by their health care provider

- In crowded indoor settings
- Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, may choose to wear a mask at all times or when it makes them feel comfortable, such as:
 - When traveling on school buses
 - For personal health reasons
 - Because they are not vaccinated or live with someone who is at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19

Staying Home if Sick

Tell students and staff to stay home and get tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms. Schools should offer at-home test kits to students and staff who have symptoms. Students and staff who use at-home test kits should take two tests 24 hours apart if the initial result with the at-home test is negative.

Isolating if Positive for COVID-19

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for five days and can return to school on Day 6 if they have no symptoms or symptoms are improving. They should wear a mask when attending school until Day 10 after symptom onset or the date of their positive test, **or** may remove their mask after two negative COVID-19 tests taken 48 hours apart.
- Anyone who cannot consistently and correctly wear a mask, such as people with some disabilities, can return to school on Day 6 if symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Getting Tested if Exposed to COVID-19

Students and staff who are exposed to COVID-19 should get tested.

- Students and staff who are exposed may attend school as long as they are free of symptoms. These individuals should get tested five days after their last exposure and wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask for 10 days.
- All exposed individuals should monitor themselves for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days after their exposure. If symptoms begin, they should not attend school and should get tested for COVID-19 right away.
- If their test is positive, the individual must isolate according to the guidance above.
- For the purpose of determining length of isolation and masking period: Day 0 is the day of COVID-19 symptom onset and Day 1 is the first full day after the day symptoms started. If they had no symptoms, Day 0 is the test date and Day 1 is the first full day following the test date.

For more information, visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus or bit.ly/cdc-schools-operational-guidance.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 9.7.22