

## Updated COVID-19 State Guidance for Schools

Aug 31, 2022

On August 22, 2022, the NYS Department of Health in conjunction with the NYS State Education Department released a letter updating COVID-19 guidance for the start of the 2022-23 school year. The State has aligned their guidance with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC's) guidance that provides some greater flexibility (beyond what was amended last spring) heading into the new school year.

The following is a summary of the guidance and you are encouraged to review the CDC's [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early](#) ; :

- Students and staff exposed to COVID-19 will not have to quarantine. Those exposed should follow CDC recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure and get tested.
- No more test to stay: students are no longer required to receive a COVID test if exposed in order to remain in school.
- Students and staff who test positive are to isolate for 5 days at home. Those with symptoms may resume attending school after 5 days so long as they are fever free without the use of fever reducing medications, and other symptoms are improving, and should wear a mask when around others through day 10.
- Universal masking is not required. Follow above CDC recommendations for masking if required to isolate.
- Schools are not required to offer or conduct screening testing.
- Schools are not required to test unvaccinated staff.
- Schools are not required to report daily test results to the DOH.
- Schools are not required to conduct contact tracing.

The District will continue to encourage some common practices that serve as practical mitigation measures to enhance our ability to keep everyone safer.

- Continue to monitor your health daily and if you have COVID-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea) stay home. It is recommended to get tested as soon as possible after symptoms begin.
- Consider getting vaccinated, though this is not required.
- Maintain good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.

We are looking forward to our staff and student's return to school on September 6, and working together to provide a safe and engaging learning environment for our students. The District is grateful for the continued support and patience of our school community as we strive to provide the best educational experience possible for our students.

Sincerely,

Ronald Wheelock