



The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and the [New York State Department of Health](#) (NYSDOH) have recently provided updated guidance for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

The table below summarizes the latest NYSDOH guidance as of **August 29, 2022**, applicable to all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

	What to do Next	When to Return to School
Symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get tested for COVID-19 ● Notify the school ● Contact your healthcare provider for further guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>If test is negative, return when able.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must provide negative test result to return within 5 days. ● <u>If not tested, may return after at least 5 days if:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fever-free for at least 24 hours, and ○ other symptoms are improving.
Tested Positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay home for at least 5 days ● Notify the school ● Notify any close contacts who may have been exposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>May return after at least 5 days if:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fever-free for at least 24 hours, and ○ other symptoms are improving. ● Please wear a mask on days 6-10.
Exposure to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear a mask ● Watch for symptoms ● Test after 5 days or as soon as symptoms develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Continue to attend school</u> if symptoms do not develop. ● Please wear a mask for 10 days after exposure.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever (100.4 or higher) ● Cough ● Shortness of breath ● Sore throat ● Vomiting ● Diarrhea ● Other Symptoms

WAYS TO GET TESTED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask your school for a free at-home rapid test kit. ● Purchase at-home rapid test kit from any local pharmacy. ● Free PCR test by appointment at Rite-Aid <p>For more information, visit https://chqgov.com/public-health/covid-19-testing-sites</p>



1. Is COVID-19 vaccination required in order for students or staff to attend school?

No, the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandated in New York State for school attendance. However, COVID-19 vaccination helps protect eligible people from getting severely ill with COVID-19. All individuals 6 months of age and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For the latest information about vaccine clinics in our area, please visit <https://chqgov.com/public-health/covid-19-vaccination-clinics>.

2. Are masks required to be worn in schools?

In most circumstances, students and staff can choose whether or not to wear a mask. However, there are some situations in which masks are still recommended by the CDC and NYSDOH. Masks should be worn for 10 full days following exposure to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection. Individuals returning to school after completing 5 days of isolation should wear a mask in school on days 6-10. Masks may also be recommended if cases of COVID-19 increase, or when the CDC identifies a High [COVID-19 Community Level](#).

3. Do students and staff have to quarantine following exposure to someone with COVID-19?

No. In schools, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should wear a well-fitting mask and get tested. The CDC recommends that those exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days in public indoor settings including schools and test on or after day 5 or sooner if symptoms develop.

4. When should a student or employee be sent home or stay home?

The CDC continues to recommend that people stay home when sick. Any student or employee who has symptoms such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Students or staff who experience symptoms during the school day may be sent home, and will be kept away from others and asked to wear a mask while arrangements are made to go home. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

5. What are the current isolation requirements for students and staff who test positive for COVID-19?

People who have tested positive or are awaiting COVID-19 test results should remain home and follow the CDC's Isolation Guidance. If someone who tested positive has no symptoms, isolation may end after day 5. If someone has symptoms, isolation may end after day 5 if they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. People should wear a mask through day 10 after ending isolation when they are feeling better.

6. Can a student or employee be tested at school for COVID-19?

Schools will provide home test kits for use by students or staff who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to COVID-19. Screening or diagnostic testing will not be offered in the school setting at this time.

For more information, please see <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/schools-youth>.