



Winfield Township School

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Greetings, Winfield Family:

We are looking forward to everyone returning to school for **full days of in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 18, 2022**. With any luck, we will not find ourselves in another situation forcing us into remote learning for the remainder of the school year.

The CDC and New Jersey Department of Health have now updated their COVID-19 guidance for school settings, shortening the isolation period for COVID-19 positive cases and the quarantine period for those in close contact with a positive case. These changes, highlighted below, are now being implemented - effective Tuesday, January 18.

**** If your child is already out on isolation or quarantine and their symptoms are improving and are fever-free for 72 hours without the use of medication, you can request a shortening of the isolation/quarantine time period based on this new guidance by first contacting the nurse's office to confirm.** Please do not have your child show up to school without notifying the school first. ******

The updated recommendations for school settings from the NJ Department of Health can be found here: [NJDOH Revised School Guidance for Isolation-Quarantine January 12, 2022](#). Highlights of the changes are posted below:

We will be adopting a shortened version of isolation and quarantine precautions with the possibility of a negative test further shortening the time necessary for a close contact quarantine.

Note: Where masks are referenced as something that should be done for a number of days, the governor has reinstated the state of emergency mandating masks are worn in schools, and we will continue to wear masks in the school building.

Note: We will NOT be using the 5 day return option referenced in the guidelines. That return is dependent on the ability of those who test positive to be a) symptom free after the 5th day, b) fever free for 24 hours prior to the 5th day, and c) wearing a proper mask (kn95 or n95 fit into this category), and it must be fit tested. As we have no measure in place to ensure proper fitting, we will be following the 10 day isolation for positive cases.

To repeat: Positive cases will isolate for a minimum of 10 days and be symptom free before contacting the nurses office to return to school.

If Someone Is a Close Contact of a Positive Case

Unvaccinated students must quarantine if they come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact for students in a school setting is defined as less than 3 feet when students are wearing masks, or within 6 feet if not wearing masks for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Fully vaccinated students or those who had COVID-19 in the last 90 days DO NOT have to quarantine, unless they start showing symptoms.

When on Quarantine:

- Stay home and away from other people for at least 10 days (day 0 through day 10) after the last close contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of the exposure is considered day 0.
 - If COVID-19 symptoms develop, get tested and follow isolation recommendations.
 - If asymptomatic, get PCR tested at least 5 days after the last close contact.
 - If the test is positive, follow isolation recommendations.
 - If the test is negative, you can return to school after communicating the negative test to the nurse's office.
 - If testing is not available, you can end quarantine after day 10 (as long as there were no COVID-19 symptoms throughout).

It remains imperative that **anyone who tests positive must report it to the school by either calling the main office and/or the attendance line.** We are also petitioning for students forced into quarantine or isolation to be able to work in real time virtually as we've done in the past. We'll continue to update you as information comes available in this regard.

Thank you, and stay safe,

Ross LeBrun