

COVID-19 Reminders
September, 2023
Reviewed CDC School Guidance updated July 2023
Updated March 11, 2024

Mitigation Strategies

- Masking
 - Universal masking in school or on school buses IS NOT REQUIRED at this time
 - Staff or students returning to school or work following a positive COVID-19 test result are encouraged to wear a mask following a positive COVID-19 test
 - Students SHOULD NOT be excluded from school if they are unable to wear a mask. Accommodations may be necessary
- Physical Distancing
 - Physical distancing is no longer required
 - Physical distancing is a recommended but not required mitigation strategy for high-risk activities such as athletics, band, and chorus
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - Custodial staff will continue to clean and sanitize surfaces
 - Additional sanitizing will occur following a known COVID-19 positive test result of a staff member or student

Vaccinations

- The COVID-19 vaccine is not mandated in NY State for school attendance
- Unvaccinated staff ARE NOT CURRENTLY REQUIRED to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing

Sickness/symptoms

- Students and staff with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea should be sent home or stay home

Quarantine

- Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19
- Exposed staff or students are encouraged to wear a well-fitting mask in indoor spaces following exposure and get tested five days following exposure or when COVID symptoms begin

COVID Testing

- COVID-19 screening and testing is no longer required to be offered by the school
- A negative COVID test result IS NOT REQUIRED to return to work or school following an initial positive COVID test result
- Testing for symptomatic staff will continue to be available at Charles Upson Elementary School 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and at Lockport High School West at Charlotte Cross at 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Staff must still contact Lisa Schrader to arrange for this testing.
- Staff obtaining a COVID test outside of the district must use accrued time for any absences due to COVID testing or when waiting for COVID test results.

Isolation after POSITIVE COVID-19 Test Result

- **March 11, 2024 Update - Based on CDC Guidance, the NYSDOH has revised the isolation guidelines for individuals experiencing COVID-19. Individuals can go back to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both of the following are true - symptoms are getting better AND they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication. Individuals are still encouraged to take additional precautions such as masking, physical distancing, hygiene, and testing if symptoms get worse.**

NYS Paid Sick Leave

- Staff members may be eligible for up to 14 days of paid sick leave if they are subject to a mandatory or precautionary isolation issued by the state, NYSDOH, local DOH, or other authorized government entity, or receive a positive lab-confirmed test.
- Staff requesting access to paid sick leave due to a positive COVID test result MUST present lab-confirmed or district-administered documentation of the positive test result. All staff are able to access testing by district nurses (as outlined above) for this purpose if they so choose
- Situations that ARE NOT COVERED are - an employee has been advised by a health care provider to self quarantine but has not received a quarantine order from a governmental entity or physician; an employee is experiencing symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis but has not received a quarantine or isolation notice from a governmental entity or physician; an employee who is caring for an individual who is subject to an order of quarantine; or an employee who is caring for a child whose school or place of child care is closed due to COVID-19
- At this time, time off for COVID due to mandatory or precautionary quarantine or isolation used during the 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023 school years counts toward the 14 day and three incident maximum. An employee may be eligible for second and third (cumulative since the 2020/2021 school year) 14 day periods of quarantine only if the employee **has tested positive for COVID-19, has a fever, and does not have improved symptoms.** To be eligible for leave, the employee must provide a copy of a LABORATORY CONFIRMED OR DISTRICT-ADMINISTERED positive COVID-19 test result. At this time, no employee is eligible for more than three leave periods.
- Know that sick days will only be restored to a staff member who is eligible as outlined above after they have submitted the affirmation of isolation form to the Human Resources Office. It may take several pay periods for the restoration of eligible days to be included in a pay stub. Please be patient!

[Affirmation of Isolation Form](#)