

COVID-19 Reminders
September, 2023
Reviewed CDC School Guidance updated July 2023

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 and at least five day isolation period MUST wear a mask through day 10 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 should wear a well-fitting mask for ten full days in indoor spaces following exposure and get tested five days following exposure or when COVID symptoms begin (if positive on this test, follow the five-day isolation and ten-day masking procedure outlined in this document)

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

- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home for five days. Day 1 is considered the first full day following symptoms onset or the first full day following the positive COVID test administration.
- Following the five day isolation period students or staff may return to school or work if they have been fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours and symptoms are improving AND they wear a well-fitting mask through day 10 following the onset of symptoms or the positive COVID test

- If symptoms worsen or return following isolation, staff or students should restart the isolation period.

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 during the masking period described above
- 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; an employee is experiencing symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis but has not received a quarantine or isolation notice from a governmental entity; 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 is ordered to isolate because they have tested positive for COVID-19. To be eligible for leave, the employee must provide a copy of a LABORATORY CONFIRMED OR DISTRICT-ADMINISTERED positive 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](#)