

## 2022-2023 Frequently Asked Questions related to COVID-19

Updated September 8, 2022

Based on the August 11, 2022, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning | CDC](#)

These questions were received by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) from schools and districts across New York State. This document is meant to be used in conjunction with guidance provided by the CDC, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and your school or district's local Department of Health. Additional resources can be found at:

- x NYSED COVID-19 Resource Page: <http://www.nysed.gov/coronavirus>
- x Student Support Services: [NYSED:SSS:School Health Services](#)
- x NYSDOH Schools and Youth Website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/schools-youth>
- x NYSDOH Vax to School website: <ny.gov/vaxtoschool>

Further questions may be directed to NYSDOH by email at [SchoolQuestionsCOVID@health.ny.gov](mailto:SchoolQuestionsCOVID@health.ny.gov).

### Quarantine

1. Do students and staff have to quarantine following ex x7.2 (a)-54w 0 Td-9 ex14 0 Td o xfowinnh0 Tw 2.286 C

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

Schools should ensure that people with COVID-19 [isolate](#) from others until able to leave school

5. What should a school do if a student or staff member with symptoms of COVID-19 does not get tested?

School officials have the discretion to require that a recently symptomatic school community member not enter the school facility for a period of 5 days from the onset of symptoms if they cannot present evidence of a negative test.

#### Masking

6. Is universal masking required?

No, universal masking in school is not required at this time.

Individuals returning to school after completing 5 days of isolation should wear a mask in school

and in all public spaces. For more information, see the [COVID-19 Masking](#) page on the [School District of Philadelphia](#) website.

9. Can a school require masks to be worn?

Please consult with your local health department (LHD) and legal counsel. LHDs and school districts and private schools may consult and collaborate on masking decisions. LHDs are

COVID-19 Testing

14. Do schools have to offer COVID-19 diagnostic testing?

Schools are not required to offer diagnostic testing. However, schools may provide or connect individuals to [diagnostic testing](#) when students or staff:

- x Exhibit [symptoms of COVID-19](#); and/or
- x When they are exposed to someone with COVID-19

Schools may also refer symptomatic students and staff to a community testing site, health care provider, or to use an at-home test.

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## Contact Tracing

21. Do schools still need to conduct contact tracing of positive cases?

No, routine contact tracing is no longer recommended. However, If a school is experiencing a COVID-19 [outbreak](#) they should consider adding prevention strategies regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level. Strategies that can help reduce transmission during an outbreak include wearing well-fitting masks or respirators, improving ventilation (for example moving school activities outdoors, opening windows and doors, using air filters), screening testing, **and case investigation and contact tracing**. Early identification of cases to ensure that they stay home, and isolate is a critical component of outbreak response. Schools that are experiencing outbreaks should work with their [local health department](#) in accordance with state and local regulations.

Schools should continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of students, teachers and staff . When known close contact with someone who tested positive for or has symptoms of COVID-19 occurs on the school campus, for example, in a classroom, schools should at least notify parents and guardians of affected students. Exposed individuals should be referred to information provided by the state or local health department.

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