



2022-2023 COVID Mitigation Strategies
Based on CDC¹ and NYSDOH/NYSED Guidance²
As of 9/2/2022

DISTRICT GOAL: To maximize in-person instruction by limiting student and staff absences and related distractions to teaching and learning.

Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>In-person attendance for all students</i> unless in isolation due to a positive COVID test.
Universal Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal Masking <i>is not required</i>. ● Masking <i>is an option</i> for all students and staff at all times. ● Masking <i>is strongly encouraged</i> after being <u>exposed</u> to a positive case. ● Masking <i>may be requested</i> when entering the school nurse's offices if students or staff present with COVID symptoms. ● Masking <i>is required</i> for days 6-10 when returning from isolation (having tested positive). ● Masking <i>is required</i> when using public transportation, but not on school buses.³
Learning Options for Students in Isolation due to a Positive COVID Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be provided with class/course work and where appropriate, a tutor. ● Tutors will work with individual students or, depending on age and need, small groups of students.⁴
Symptomatic ⁵ Students/Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students or staff presenting with COVID symptoms will be sent home.

¹ See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>

² See *Guidance for Schools* at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/schools-youth>

³ See https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/2.60-determination-5.0_3.2.22.pdf

⁴ A District tutoring model is being developed at this time. See, for example, [https://annenberg.brown.edu/sites/default/files/EdResearch for Recovery Design Principles 1.pdf](https://annenberg.brown.edu/sites/default/files/EdResearch%20for%20Recovery%20Design%20Principles%201.pdf), <https://www.wested.org/wested-bulletin/high-quality-tutoring-an-evidence-based-strategy-to-tackle-learning-loss/>, and <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/tutoring-or-remediation-which-learning-recovery-strategy-is-most-popular/2022/08>

⁵ See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To return to school, a negative test result (tests can be rapid (at home) or PCR/NAAT) is required. The District will provide rapid tests to parents or staff who need them.
Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students/staff who test positive for COVID must isolate at home for at least five (5) days. Students/staff may end isolation after day 5 if they are fever free (without fever reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. If returning to school between days 6-10, a well-fitted mask must be worn.
Quarantining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is no longer required for people who are exposed to COVID-19. When exposed, precautions (e.g., monitoring for symptoms, wearing a mask for 10 days and testing after day 5) are strongly recommended.
Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer required. For students in grades K-5, families will be notified when a student in their child's class has tested positive so that precautions (monitoring of symptoms, testing) can be taken.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer required in classrooms, on buses, or in group/large group settings.
Reporting of Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer required
Testing of Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening testing of students and staff is no longer required. Test-to-Stay is no longer required. Students who are sent home because they are displaying symptoms must be tested and must provide negative test results prior to returning to school. Rapid tests will be made available for families of students and for staff members.
Testing of Unvaccinated Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer required.
Vaccination ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinations are strongly encouraged, but not required. The District will continue to encourage student and staff vaccinations.

⁶ See <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccines-children-6-months-and-older>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will host vaccination clinics for students and staff as we are able to do so.
Outdoor Air Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will be maximized in buildings and classrooms so long as outdoor temperatures allow for it.⁷ ● On days where the temperatures are lower, parents should ensure that students have an additional layer of clothing (e.g., sweater or sweatshirt) available.
Indoor Air Filtration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District HVAC systems have either MERV-11 or MERV-13 filters installed and our indoor air is circulated through these filters a number of times each hour. ● Portable HEPA systems are located in buildings and classrooms throughout the District.
Cleaning Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom surfaces will be cleaned at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.
Hosting of Non-athletic Events (e.g., concerts, open house) and participation in field trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most events from pre-pandemic will be scheduled for in-person attendance with precautions being encouraged. ● Certain events that were improved by remote attendance (e.g., grades 6-12 open houses, K-12 parent-teacher conferences) will be held virtually. ● Live streaming of in-district events will take place as available.
Hosting of Athletic Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Restrictions
Spectators/Audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spectators and audiences will be allowed at all events. ● Live streaming of events will take place as available.
Return to Sports for Student Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must have clearance from a physician in accordance with the District's RTS procedures.
Parent/Community Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will be provided periodically.

⁷ When it is very warm out, opening the windows will offset the cooler conditioned air that we know makes a difference in students' learning. It is important to note that this air is recirculated through our MERV filters a number of times each hour and is supplemented by our portable HEPA filters. This of course has to be balanced with overall health benefits to students and staff of truly fresh air when we are trying to mitigate against the spread of a virus, for example. Similarly, when it is very cold out, opening the windows will offset the warmth provided by our heating systems and can create pockets near windows that are simply too cold and distract from learning. Again, the air that is circulated goes through the filtration system a number of times each hour and is supplemented by our HEPA filters.

Evaluation of Protocol

- Will be done on an ongoing basis and more frequently when community and school conditions change (e.g., we experience an increase in new cases).

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