



COVID-19 Update: 1/11/2022

On 1/10/2022 we received new guidance from the NYSDOH regarding quarantine and isolation in school settings, and additional guidance from the UCDOH outlining the updates.

Both NYSDOH and UCDOH recognizes the CDC priority of safely providing in-person instruction, as well as the importance of multi-layer mitigation strategies in place in school settings.

Masking and Distancing: Both masking and distancing continue to be required in school settings.

Changes:

Isolation:

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for a minimum of 5 days (regardless of vaccination status). If symptoms persist, further isolation will be required; otherwise, they may attend or work at school after the 5-day isolation.

- If asymptomatic at the end of 5 days or if symptoms are resolving, isolation ends, and the individual should wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- Individuals who are moderately-severely immunocompromised should continue to follow standard (not shortened) isolation guidance.
- Individuals who are unable to wear a well-fitting mask for 5 days after a 5-day isolation should also follow standard (not shortened) isolation guidance.

Quarantine (for Individuals who are exposed to someone with COVID-19):

a. In-classroom activities:

All fully vaccinated* individuals (students, teachers, and staff), who have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 **may continue to attend or work at school, regardless of booster status, while quarantined outside of school.** Attendance applies only to participation in classroom activities and taking the bus to and from school.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after the receipt of either two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine or full course of any other recognized vaccine.

Previously referred to as vaccine exempt.

b. Extracurricular or after school activities:

Individuals 12 years and older who are eligible for a booster but not boosted, and who have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, **cannot participate in extracurricular or after school activities and, aside from school attendance for instruction and bus travel, they must adhere to a 5-day quarantine outside of school.**

Fully vaccinated 5-11 year-old children are not eligible for a booster and have no further restrictions. They **CAN** attend extracurricular or after school activities

- c. Students, teachers, and staff who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 need to quarantine for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last close contact.

These individuals **could** be eligible for our Test-To-Stay Program that would allow them to stay in the school setting during the quarantine period. **They must be quarantined outside of the school instruction/academic periods. [No community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc.]**

Our **Test-To-Stay protocol** enables asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals to remain in school under certain conditions.

It is important to note the following:

- a. The exposure must have occurred in the school setting and while both the person with COVID-19 (index patient) and exposed person were consistently and properly masked.
- b. The exposed person remains asymptomatic. If the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current school guidance.
- c. The exposed person is tested a minimum of two times during the five-day period following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed, or weekends or school breaks intervene.
 - Testing twice [was three times] over a five-day period [was seven days]
 - Test #1 may be administered by parent/guardian/caregiver/staff under the direction of our school nurse on Day 0, or as soon as possible
 - Test #2 needs to be given on days 4 or 5

Please see updated Rondout Valley Policy on Test-To-Stay [TTS], 1/11/2022, for additional details.

Additional changes for symptomatic individuals:

We still accept ALL test sources for POSITIVES cases - No Change.

Now, we can accept a rapid antigen test if completed by a Health Care Provider/lab verified [not a home kit or over the counter kit] for a person who has symptoms and has NO KNOWN EXPOSURE as a close contact for the past 14 days. This documented result from a Health Care Provider/lab verified will allow a symptomatic person to return.

If a person has symptoms and a known exposure (close contact) in the past 14 days, we can only accept PCR/NAAT/Molecular tests. NO rapid antigen tests or home kits are accepted.