



January 14, 2022

Dear Farmingdale Families,

We have recently received updated guidance from the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) regarding changes to isolation and quarantine timeframes. Please note that ***isolation*** means to separate people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 from those without COVID-19. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others and wear a well-fitting mask when they need to be around others. Whereas, ***quarantine*** is a strategy used to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others. Please see below the new updated changes effective **Tuesday, January 18th**:

Student tests POSITIVE for COVID-19 (ASYMPTOMATIC)

The student **must isolate** for at least 5 full days.

- Day 0 is the day the viral test specimen is collected.
- The student may return to school on the 6th day as long as no symptoms have begun.

Upon return to school, the student **must** wear a well-fitted mask at all times except while eating or drinking and distanced 6 feet from others. Please note that our mask policy has not changed and ALL staff, students, and visitors are required to continue to wear well-fitting masks while in the school building.

Student tests POSITIVE for COVID-19 (SYMPTOMATIC)

The student **must isolate** for at least 5 days.

- Day 0 is the day symptoms began.
- The student may return to school on the 6th day, however, they **MUST** be fever free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours and symptoms must be improving.
- If the student's symptoms have not improved as of day 5, please keep them home and notify the school nurse.

Upon return to school, the student **must** wear a well-fitted mask at all times except while eating or drinking and distanced 6 feet from others.

Symptomatic student with a NEGATIVE COVID-19 PCR test

With a negative COVID-19 PCR test, no isolation is needed as long as the student is fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

- *Please note, an alternate diagnosis (i.e. positive strep test, influenza, croup, etc.) **without** a negative COVID-19 PCR test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the recommended exclusion timeframes.*

Student is determined to be a CLOSE CONTACT to a Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case

1. The student **must quarantine for 5 days** after the last exposure to the confirmed positive case. Day 0 is the last day of close contact to the confirmed positive case.

2. The student will be permitted to return to school after satisfying the quarantine requirement outlined above provided they do not become symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19 during their quarantine.

3. If the student becomes **symptomatic** or **tests positive for COVID-19** during the quarantine, the student must **isolate** and notify the school nurse to inform the school of your student's status.

The close contact does not have to quarantine if the student:

- is fully vaccinated and has no symptoms, *or*
 - (Fully vaccinated = 2 weeks after a Pfizer or Moderna second dose; 2 weeks after a Johnson & Johnson single dose.)
- tested positive for COVID-19 on a viral test and clinically recovered from COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, *or*
- was within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student, in an indoor classroom setting, where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore a well-fitted mask the entire time and has no symptoms.

In accordance with the New Jersey Department of Health, "close contact" is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the individual is isolated.

If your child has been fully vaccinated, please share a copy of their vaccination record with Mrs. Kokolus to assist in contact tracing.

Thank you, as always, for your support and commitment to ensuring the health and safety of our students.

In Health,

Mrs. Edith Conroy and Mrs. Katy Kokolus