



2023-24 ISOLATION GUIDANCE (as of August 23, 2023)

If You Test Positive for COVID 19

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- 1) Report your positive status on the Google Form below:
  - a) Student-Click [HERE](#)
  - b) Staff-Click [HERE](#)
- 2) Begin isolation at home for 5 days:
  - a) For those positive with SYMPTOMS - Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started.
  - b) For those positive with NO SYMPTOMS - Day 1 is the first full day following the day you were tested.
    - i) IF someone develops symptoms within the 10 days, the clock restarts at Day 0 on the day of symptom onset
- 3) End Isolation and return to school if after 5 days:
  - a) you have no symptoms, your symptoms are resolving, you are fever free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours AND
  - b) are able to wear a well-fitting mask through day #10.
    - i) If you have access to antigen tests and have 2 negative tests 48 hours apart - you may remove your mask sooner than day 10.
- 4) Continue to remain in isolation for up to 10 days if you are still experiencing symptoms or cannot properly wear a mask.

If you were exposed to someone with COVID 19

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- 1) No quarantine
- 2) Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days - Test 5 full days after exposure (Day 6)
- 3) If symptoms develop while at school, see a school nurse. Parents/guardians would need to consent on [FamilyID](#) if you would like the nurses to perform the test.
  - a) If the test is positive, see above for *If You Test Positive for COVID-19*.
  - b) If the test is negative and you are still ill, you should remain home for at least 24 hours and until your symptoms subside.
- 4) If you develop symptoms at home, stay home, schedule a test with a Health Care Provider and notify the district if positive using the link above.
  - a) If the test is positive, see above for *If You Test Positive for COVID-19*.
  - b) If the test is negative, you are still ill and should remain home for at least 24 hours from school and until your symptoms subside.

If your child was sent home from school as a result of displaying signs of an illness

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- 1) Stay home when sick with any symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections - cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- 2) If parent consents to test child at school before leaving the building (via [FamilyID](#)-no verbal consent is accepted):
  - a) If the test is positive, see above for *If You Test Positive for COVID-19*.
  - b) If the test is negative, the child should remain home for 24 hours and until your symptoms improve.
- 3) If consent is not provided to test at school:
  - a) If advised by the district, the student will be recommended to remain home for 24 hours and or up to 5 days. The child should remain home until symptoms improve.
  - b) Parents may be provided with antigen tests. If the test is verbalized to be negative, the child should remain home for at least 24 hours and until symptoms improve.

Frequently Asked Questions (as of August 24, 2022) -  
<https://www.nysed.gov/back-school/health-and-safety>

**1) Do students and staff have to quarantine following exposure to someone with COVID-19?**

No. Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19. Students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested. School administrators will confer with local health departments as applicable to determine how to manage exposures based on the local context and benefits of preserving access to in-person learning. Accommodations may be necessary for exposed people who cannot wear a mask or have difficulty wearing a well-fitting mask. Lansingburgh may also consider recommending masking and/or testing for a classroom in which a student was recently exposed who is unable to consistently and correctly wear a mask. As appropriate, school administrators will discuss with local health departments whether more stringent measures should be considered. The CDC recommends that those exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection, wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days in public indoor settings (including school settings) and test on or after day 5 or sooner if symptoms develop.

**2) When should a student or staff member be sent home or stay home?**

Students and staff with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea should be sent home or directed to stay home. If at school, the individual should wear a well-fitted mask while arrangements are made to go home even if they have not yet had a test. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

**3. What are the current isolation requirements for students and staff who test positive for**

**COVID-19?** Lansingburgh will ensure that people with COVID-19 [isolate](#) from others until able to leave school and not attend school until they have completed isolation. If a student or staff member is suspected of or has tested positive for COVID-19 and are waiting to go home, they should wear a well-fitting mask and distance from others and students should be supervised by an adult. Once isolation has ended, people should wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others through day 10. While testing is not generally required to determine the end of isolation or mask use following COVID-19 infection, Lansingburgh has the discretion to impose screening requirements to prevent the possibility of asymptomatic people re-entering the school environment.

CDC guidance indicates that people can use the test-based strategy outlined in the [isolation guidance](#) to potentially shorten the duration of post-isolation mask use. This test-based strategy includes two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart. If they are both negative you may remove your mask sooner than day 10. If

your antigen test results are positive, you may still be infectious. You should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test. Continue taking antigen tests at least 48 hours apart until you have two sequential negative results. This may mean you need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10.

If using the test-based strategy, people should continue to wear a well-fitting mask or respirator in school and community settings until testing criteria have been met.

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days at home even if they do not report having any symptoms.

For those with symptoms Day 1 is the first full day after symptom onset (Day 0 is the day of symptom onset). Those with symptoms may resume attending school after the 5 days if:

- They are fever free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving<sup>1</sup> ; and
- They wear a mask through day 10 (day 1 is the first full day following the day they received positive test results regardless of symptom onset).

For those that had no symptoms Day 0 is the day they were tested (not the day you received your positive test result) and Day 1 is the first full day following the day they were tested—if someone develops symptoms within the 10 days of testing the clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset. Those with no symptoms may resume attending school after the day 5 if:

- They wear a mask through day 10.

**Note:** After having ended isolation, if COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen, restart isolation at day 0. Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset. Staff and student's parents/guardians should be advised to talk to their healthcare provider, school nurse, or medical director about their symptoms and/or when to end isolation.

#### 4) How do I notify the school if I have tested positive for COVID-19?

Complete the following forms:

-Student-[HERE](#)

-Staff-[HERE](#)

#### 5) Can Lansingburgh require a student or staff member be sent home for symptoms of COVID-19 to test negative or complete a 5-day isolation protocol before they can return to school?

Yes. Lansingburgh officials have the discretion to impose screening requirements meant to rule out the possibility of asymptomatic individuals re-entering the school environment. However, please note that, if a person who has received an isolation order from a local health official were to appear at school prior to the expiration of that order, school officials would be legally obligated to report the individual's presence to the local health official.

6) What will Lansingburgh 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 have verbally confirmed that they have not completed a negative test.

**7) 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 will need to wear a mask in school on days 6-10.

**8) When are masks recommended?**

Masks are recommended in school health offices regardless of recent COVID-19 transmission levels. The CDC recommends that individuals consistently and correctly wear a well-fitting mask or respirator under the following circumstances:

- After exposure to COVID-19 for 10 full days in public indoor settings regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection
- When COVID-19 Community levels are High.
- When students or staff who come to school with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school, they should be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building, and be sent home and encouraged to get tested if testing is unavailable at school.
- Schools may consider layering prevention strategies, such as masking of staff and students, when close contact occurs, such as during assistance with feeding, toileting and diapering.
- If a school is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak, masks can be added as a prevention strategy, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 during an outbreak.

**9) What will Lansingburgh do if a student or staff member is unable to wear a mask following an exposure to COVID-19?**

Exposed or potentially exposed individuals do not need to be excluded from school and are strongly encouraged to wear a well-fitting mask and test as recommended. The CDC notes that accommodations may be necessary for exposed people who cannot or have difficulty wearing a mask. Lansingburgh can also consider recommending masking and/or testing for a classroom in which a student was recently exposed who is unable to consistently and correctly wear a mask or respirator. Lansingburgh may need to consider other prevention strategies—such as improving ventilation and avoiding crowding—when the COVID-19 Community Level is medium or high or in response to an outbreak.

**10) 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 encouraged to assess conditions and tailor guidance to their jurisdiction. A LHD may implement masking requirements that are more restrictive than the state. LHDs are strongly encouraged to implement universal masking when the county COVID-19 community level is high.

**11) My employer is requesting a note for my absence at work because I was home with my child during their isolation period. Will the District provide one for me?**

No, but you may complete an Attestation of Isolation from the NYS DOH by clicking this link: [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/affirmation\\_of\\_isolation\\_011222.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/affirmation_of_isolation_011222.pdf)

**12) Will Lansingburgh continue to offer COVID-19 diagnostic testing?**

Lansingburgh is not required to offer diagnostic testing. However, we will continue to provide diagnostic testing when students or staff:

- Exhibit symptoms of COVID-19; and/or
- When they were exposed to someone with COVID-19.

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

**13) Is COVID-19 vaccination required in order for students or staff to attend school?**

No, the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandated in New York State for school attendance. However, COVID-19 vaccination helps protect eligible people from getting severely ill with COVID-19. All individuals 6 months of age and older are eligible and encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Additional information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine can be found at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

**14) Do I have to report positive test results to the NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Report Card for the 2022-23 school year?**

No, the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) is no longer requiring schools to report positive test results to the School Report Card via the Daily Survey. Please note that while schools are no longer required to report COVID-19 and case positive data to the NYSDOH through the School Report Card, any school operating under an LSL would still be required to report COVID-19 positive data.

On March 8, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced revisions to HHS SARS-CoV-2 laboratory data reporting requirements that became effective on April 4, 2022. In some instances, HHS will no longer require reporting of SARS-CoV-2 test results. Additional details can be found at: <https://www.wadsworth.org/sites/default/files/WebDoc/Revised%20SARS-CoV-2%20Reporting%20Requirements%20POLEP.pdf>. Please contact CLIA@health.ny.gov with any questions regarding this advisory. For technical questions on how to report results, please contact (866) 325-7743 or eclrs@health.state.ny.us

**15) Do schools have to report cases of known COVID-19 to the Local Department of Health?**

Yes, COVID-19 is on the list of reportable diseases [NYSDOH Communicable Disease Reporting Requirements.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#) that schools must report to their local department of health pursuant to Education Law §906, Public Health Law §2101 and 10 NYCRR § 2.6. See the NYSDOH [Communicable Disease Reporting \(ny.gov\)](#) website for more information.

**16) Does Lansingburgh school still need to conduct contact tracing of positive cases?**

No, routine contact tracing is no longer recommended. However, If Lansingburgh is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak we may 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. If Lansingburgh is experiencing outbreaks we would work with the Rensselaer County Health Department in accordance with state and local regulations. Lansingburgh will 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, the district should at least notify parents and guardians of affected students. Exposed individuals should refer to information provided above in the colored chart.

**17) Are schools required or able to provide remote instruction for the 2022-2023 academic year?**

The Department's policy on remote instruction, as set forth in the July 29, 2021 memo, is as follows:

- Schools should be open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be educated in the school building.
- While the Department will not require schools that are open for full-time, in-person instruction to provide on-line or remote instruction, schools and districts will want to work with students and families to offer remote options if it is deemed to be in the best educational interest of students.

**18) Do you accept the results of home test kits?**

Yes. Families who have home test kits should continue to use the kits. If a positive test is administered at home, notify the District, stay home from school and refer to question number 3 above for further guidance.

**19) Why can I not come back to school if I have already provided a verifiable negative test result after developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19?**

A negative test result means that you do not have COVID-19. However, we also are trying to prevent the spread of other illnesses, which is why you may be directed to stay home until you are symptom free.

An exception to this would be a note from your health care provider explaining a pre-existing medical condition that may be the reason for the symptoms (i.e. asthma, allergies). This would allow you to return to school even though you are still displaying symptoms of an illness.