



Important Updates to COVID-19 Related Requirements

January 14, 2022

Dear Irvington School Community,

Last night, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued updated COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools. This guidance introduces changes to quarantine requirements and contact tracing. Additionally, the IUFSD is modifying its return-to-school guidelines.

Please review all the details included below, however it is expected that the NYSDOH will continue to update and revise school requirements. Additionally, the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) will issue updated local guidelines that may result in further changes to IUFSD requirements and practices. I will continue to provide timely updates when changes to COVID-related requirements that affect our students and/or staff members are issued.

Changes to Quarantine Requirements

The NYSDOH has changed its definition of “fully vaccinated” to include a booster shot for individuals aged 12 and older, when eligible. As a result, if an individual aged 12 or older has not received a booster shot and is determined to be a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, there are new quarantine requirements that will affect them.

Please refer to the chart below, to understand the impacts on our school community members:

	Under age 2 years or unable to wear a well-fitting mask	Age 2 – 4 years	Age 5 - 11 years		Age 12 years - Adults				All ages
			Fully Vaccinated	Not yet Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated and Boosted	Fully Vaccinated, not yet eligible for booster	Fully Vaccinated, eligible for booster but not yet boosted	Not yet Fully Vaccinated	Tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months (regardless of vaccination status)
Quarantine Duration	10 days (masks not recommended for children under age 2)	5 days	No	5 days	No	No	5 days	5 days	No
Attend or work at school, including travel to/from school (e.g., on bus)	N/A	No, unless in Test-to-Stay in pre-K. ² No extra-curriculars.	Yes	No, unless in Test-to-Stay. No extra-curriculars.	Yes	Yes	Yes. Testing encouraged. Participate in Test-to-Stay at school if available. No extra-curriculars.	No, unless in Test-to-Stay. No extra-curriculars.	Yes
Testing	Test whichever comes 1 st : at least 5 days after last exposure (testing recommended but optional if unable to test) or if Symptoms develop If positive, isolate for at least 5 days from symptom onset or (if no symptoms) date test was collected								No test needed. Test if Symptoms develop.

In summary, the above graphic indicates the following:

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 - including the booster shot - will not have to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact to a COVID-positive individual.
- Individuals who are eligible for a booster shot (those aged 12 and older), but have not received the booster dose, will have to quarantine for 5 days. However, these individuals can participate in the Test to Stay (TTS) program in order to attend school/report to work in a school. In this scenario, students cannot participate in after-school or extracurricular activities, including athletics.
- Individuals who have not received any doses of a COVID-19 vaccine will be required to quarantine for 5 days. To attend school/report to work, individuals may participate in the TTS program.

For more information regarding the changes to quarantine requirements, please feel free to review the [NYSDOH guidelines that are posted here](#).

Changes to Contact Tracing

The NYSDOH has indicated that it is no longer requiring contact tracing to be performed by schools. Further, it has deferred to local health departments, such as the WCDOH for the IUFSD, to provide final guidelines. When such guidance is issued by the WCDOH, District practices will be implemented accordingly. The school community will be informed of any such change.

Return to School/Work Testing

Due to the limited availability of PCR tests and long wait time for results, the Irvington UFSD will begin to allow the use of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for return to school for students and staff members who are symptomatic, but have no known exposure to COVID-19. For example, this will apply if an individual has common cold or allergy-like symptoms. In that instance, students and staff members with a negative RAT will be permitted to attend school/report to work. The RAT must be administered at a medical facility, testing center, or pharmacy. Home tests will not be accepted. RAT results must be reviewed by a school nurse in order for a student to be cleared to return to school. This approach is approved by the NYSDOH and the District's Medical Director.

The new guidelines outlined above demonstrate a relationship between an individual being fully vaccinated and in-person school attendance, as well as participation in after-school and extracurricular activities. To continue to support the school community, to the extent possible, the District will continue to host vaccination and booster shot clinics. Westchester County is also offering the vaccine at the County Center and appointments can be made at many local pharmacies.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in supporting the maintenance of healthy school environments.

My best regards,

Kris

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