

COVID-19 Guidance and Protocols for 2022-2023

NYS DOH, NYSED, NYCDOH and CDC (August 22, 2022)

What has changed in the COVID-19 Guidance?

- Elimination of the test-to-stay policy recommendation.
- Elimination of Daily Health Screenings
- The NYS DOH Daily Survey is no longer required
- Changed recommendations to conduct screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Levels or in response to an outbreak.
- Removal of the recommendation to pod/cohort.
- Removal of the recommendation to quarantine, except in high-risk congregate settings.
- Addition of detailed information on when to wear a mask, how to manage cases and exposures, and how to respond to outbreaks.

Catholic Academies and Parish Schools should take a variety of actions every day to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19. The following set of strategies for everyday operations should be in place at all COVID-19 Community Levels, including low levels.

Mitigation Strategies:

- ✓ Speaking with your Healthcare Provider regarding Vaccination
 - Schools should encourage their school community to speak with their healthcare provider regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Staying up to date on routine vaccinations is essential to prevent illness from many different infections. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect eligible people from getting severely ill with COVID-19.
- ✓ Staying home when sick and getting tested when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
 - People who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. People who are at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 who test positive should consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible treatment, even if their symptoms are mild. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases,
 - Symptoms of Covid, but not limited to:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat

- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

✓ **Ventilation**

- Schools should optimize ventilation and maintain improvements to indoor air quality to reduce the risk of germs and contaminants spreading through the air. i.e.
 - Air Purifiers and Filters
 - Portable Air Cleaners with HEPA filters
 - Safely opening windows and doors to increase outdoor air intake

✓ **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

- Schools should teach and reinforce proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Schools should teach and reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

✓ **Cleaning and disinfection**

- Schools should continue to clean surfaces periodically throughout the day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.
- Schools should continue to nightly disinfect the school building using fogging machines and other disinfection methods.

Isolating if Positive for COVID-19

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for **5 days at home**. For those with symptoms Day 1 is the first full day after symptom onset (Day 0 is the day 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 symptoms may resume attending school after the 5 days (on Day 6) if:

- They are fever free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving; and
 - They wear a mask through day 10 (day 1 is the first full day following the day they received positive test result regardless of symptom onset).
- OR
- Use antigen tests to shorten the 10 Day Mask Requirement. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart (Start on Day 6), you may remove your mask sooner than 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 a healthcare provider about their symptoms or when to end isolation.

Faculty, Staff and Students **are not** required to submit a doctor’s note before returning to school after having tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Symptoms While at School

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 schools, the individual should isolate and 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. If an individual with COVID-19 symptoms does not get tested for COVID-19 they are required to remain home for 10 days or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider.

Exposure to COVID-19

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19.

Schools should, if available, offer at-home test kits to students and staff who may have been exposed while at school. Students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should take two tests, at least 24 hours apart on day 4 and day 5 of their exposure. All exposed individuals should monitor for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days after their exposure. If symptoms begin, they should not attend school and should isolate and get tested for COVID-19 again right away.

Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly recommended to wear a mask when they were exposed to someone with COVID-19, whether the exposure occurred in school or outside of school. The person should wear a mask for 10 days after their last day of exposure and get tested at least 24 hours apart on day 4 and day 5 of their exposure.

Masks:

Universal masking in school is not required at this time.

Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask when:

- Returning to school after testing positive for COVID-19 through Day 10 after their symptoms began or positive test date (whichever is earlier). This includes when traveling on a school bus.
- Entering their school's medical room or nurse's office, or a school-based health center
- Exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms at school

Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly recommended to wear a mask:

- After being exposed to someone who has COVID-19, whether the exposure occurred in or outside of school. Students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should wear a mask for 10 days after their last exposure and get tested on Day 5.
- If they are moderately to severely immunocompromised and recommended by their health care provider

Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, may choose to wear a mask all the time or when it makes them feel comfortable (such as when traveling on school bus or for personal health reasons, or because they are not vaccinated or live with someone who is at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19). All schools should have face masks available.

NYC DOH Vaccine Mandate for School Staff and Volunteers:

The NYC DOH Vaccine Mandate remains in place for all School Staff and volunteers.

In accordance with NYC DOH and NYS DOH updated guidelines, bi-weekly COVID Testing is no longer required for unvaccinated faculty, staff or volunteers who have an **approved** exemption on file for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Remote Instruction:

ALL Schools are required to have the capability to provide remote instruction, if needed, in instances of whole class or school closures due to COVID-19.

Communication:

The Principal or the COVID Coordinator is responsible for the following:

- Send class COVID Notification Letter (positive case)
- Send COVID case information to Deputy Superintendent

Please Note: The Schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn reserves the right to implement COVID-19 protocols above city and state COVID-19 health protocols.

This information is subject to change as new information is received from city and state agencies.