



Chester County Health Department

COVID-19 Updated Quarantine & Isolation Tool

December 30, 2021

**Purpose:** On December 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its [quarantine and isolation guidance for COVID-19](#). This document serves as a tool for schools to implement the updated guidance.

**Return-to-School Tool:**

Scenario	Who	Return-to-School Guidance
<b>#1 Negative Screening</b>	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>#2 COVID-19 Like Symptoms</b>	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get tested for COVID-19 and do not attend school until test results are received.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Negative test result:</u> Return to school based on clinical criteria for alternative diagnosis. If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved.</li><li>○ <u>Positive test result:</u> Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>If not tested, assume individual is positive, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</i></p>
<b>#3 Tested Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)</b>	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do <u>not</u> attend school and isolate at home for 5 days.</li><li>• If no symptoms, or symptoms are resolving, after 5 days, isolation is complete and individual can return to school.</li><li>• Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school’s current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for 5 additional days.</li></ul> <p><i>If individual has a fever, continue to stay home until 24 hours after fever resolves.</i></p>



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Scenario	Who	Return-to-School Guidance
<p><b>#4 Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 &amp; Fully Vaccinated/Boosted (Close Contact/Quarantine)</b></p>	<p>If individual: Has been boosted <b>OR</b> Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months <b>OR</b> Completed the primary series of J&amp;J vaccine within the last 2 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual can attend school; no quarantine is required.</li> <li>• Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school’s current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for 10 days.</li> <li>• Test on day 5, if possible; if individual does not have symptoms while waiting for test results, they are permitted to attend school.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Negative test result</u>: Continue to attend school and wear a mask until 10 days is complete.</li> <li>○ <u>Positive test result</u>: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>If individual develops symptoms during quarantine or upon return to school, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #2.</i></p>
<p><b>#5 Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 &amp; NOT Boosted or Vaccinated (Close Contact/Quarantine)</b></p>	<p>If individual: Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted <b>OR</b> Completed the primary series of J&amp;J over 2 months ago and are not boosted <b>OR</b> Are <u>not</u> vaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do <u>not</u> attend school and quarantine at home for 5 days.</li> <li>• If no symptoms after 5 days, quarantine is complete and individual can return to school.</li> <li>• Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school’s current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for an additional 5 days.</li> <li>• Test on day 5, if possible; if individual does not have symptoms while waiting for test results, they are permitted to attend school.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Negative test result</u>: Attend school and wear a mask for an additional 5 days.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Positive test result</u>: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</li></ul> <p><i>If individual develops symptoms during quarantine or upon return to school, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #2.</i></p>

**Notes:**

- There is no change to what constitutes “day 1” or how days of quarantine/isolation are counted.
- There is no change to the 48 hour exposure period used to identify individuals exposed/close contacts.