

FAQs for Fall 2022 COVID Guidance

Testing

I just ordered some free COVID tests and they say they are expired. What should I do?

If your COVID tests are expired, the recommendation is not to use the test. However, several expiration dates have been extended. Please [check this FDA list](#) of extended expiration dates to see if your test is OK to use.

Testing Positive, Isolation, and When to Return to School:

My student just tested positive. What should I do?

Report the case to AAPS using this link: bit.ly/StudentCOVIDCase22-23

Please read [What to Do If You Test Positive](#) for instructions on isolation and returning to school.

A member of my household has tested positive for COVID. My student has symptoms but is testing negative. Should I send her to school?

No, she is considered a “probable” case. Follow the isolation procedures starting from the date her symptoms began.

My student has a suppressed immune system or an underlying medical condition. In addition to the steps that apply to all students, how can I best protect my students at school?

We urge families whose children have a significant medical condition or are immunocompromised to connect with [your school nurse](#) and healthcare provider prior to returning to school. This includes students with an underlying health condition such as asthma or diabetes, or is immunocompromised, such as undergoing chemotherapy or has had an organ transplant.

My student is a high school athlete. If they get COVID, do they have to get medical clearance before returning to practices and games?

Student athletes with moderate or severe COVID-19 symptoms, such as > 4 days of fever or muscle aches/pain, should see their health care provider for medical clearance prior to returning to their athletic activity.

Masking

When are students and staff required to mask?

Wearing masks indoors will be required in the following situations:

- For students/staff who test positive and return to school during days 6-10 of their isolation period.*
- During classroom, team, or other group outbreaks.
- In the school nurse clinics and during clinical health services in buildings (e.g. WCHD)

hearing/vision screenings). This is an OSHA requirement.

**Those who decline to mask or are unable to mask must stay out of school for the entire isolation period. When reporting their student's case, parents/guardians will affirm their plan of masking or keeping their student out of school.*

What are masking requirements for the different CDC Community Levels?

- Masking is *welcome* at the Green/Low Level.
- Masking is *encouraged* at the Yellow/Medium Level.
- Masking is *strongly recommended* at the High/Red Level.

When else is masking strongly recommended?

Masking is also strongly recommended:

- For students/staff who are household or personal contacts of a COVID case.
- When notified that 10% of school classroom, team, or group has tested positive.
- For anyone with respiratory symptoms, even if testing negative for COVID or flu.

What if my student tests negative on day 5 of isolation? Do they still need to mask on days 6-10 when returning to school?

Yes. CDC guidance states masking is required on days 6-10 following a positive case of COVID-19.

Transition to Virtual

Is there a scenario where a classroom might transition to virtual?

Yes. According to WCHD guidance, if a classroom or group reaches 30% or more testing positive for COVID within 7 days, one option is to transition to remote learning. We hope this is very rare.

Is there a scenario where a building would transition to virtual learning or close?

Yes. If staff absences due to COVID and/or other illnesses impact safe school operations. We hope this is very rare.

Classroom/School notification

Will I be notified about cases in my student's classroom or school?

The requirements for schools to notify parents/guardians about COVID cases have changed. This year, we will no longer be sending classroom and school notifications for each individual case. When there is a potential cluster (10% of classroom or group tests positive within a 7 day period), we will notify parents and provide instructions for next steps.

How will I know if my student is a "close contact" to a school case? Will they have to quarantine?

The days of measuring distances among students to identify and quarantine close contacts are over. During outbreak situations (20% or more students in a classroom or group test positive within a 7 day period), the entire group is considered “close contacts.” At this point additional steps are taken for the whole group, such as testing, required masking, and (last resort) moving to remote for a few days.