

Below you will find important information regarding COVID-19 protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. While some of these guidelines may be familiar, there have been notable updates so please read carefully!

DHHS will not mandate quarantine for staff or students at this time if positive cases occur in school (unless clusters occur), regardless of mitigation measures used (masks or no masks). Schools should notify parents of children/staff who are found to be 'close contacts' to persons who test positive for covid-19.

**Mitigation measures to be considered for implementation:**

- Communication regarding positive cases
- Promote vaccination
- Use of face masks
- Maximize physical distancing
- Cohort (ie: group individuals together)
- Consider a screening testing program
- Stay home when sick and get tested
- Increase ventilation to reduce stagnant indoor air that may contain respiratory droplets
- Perform frequent hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette
- Clean and disinfect
- Partner with Public Health for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine

**WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL:**

- Your child is experiencing any new or unexplained [symptoms of COVID-19](#), *even if symptoms are very mild.*
  - This will be one of the best ways we can minimize the spread of Covid-19 within our school buildings!
  - \* This requirement applies to both *vaccinated and unvaccinated* individuals.
  - \* If you are unsure whether your child's symptoms are considered new or unexplained, please call or email the school nurse.
- Your unvaccinated child has shared a household (temporarily or permanently) with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days. This includes recent sleepovers.
- Your unvaccinated child has travelled internationally or on a cruise ship (quarantine at home for 10 days OR test out of quarantine between days 5-7 after returning).

**STUDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

- Any student, regardless of vaccination status, showing symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be asked to put on a disposable face mask and will be evaluated by the school nurse. If symptoms are determined to be new or unexplained, the student will be excluded from school, and instructed to isolate at home and seek testing for COVID-19.

- Students with symptoms will be allowed to return to school when one of the following two conditions is met:
  1. The student receives an FDA-approved COVID-19 test that is negative, **AND** the symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications.  
Approved tests include:
    - A PCR-based molecular test
    - Antigen testing conducted within an appropriate number of days since symptom onset (within 5-7 days)
  2. The student has met CDC [criteria for ending home isolation](#) (i.e., if the student is not tested, they are managed assuming they have COVID-19).
- Please provide the negative COVID-19 test results to the school nurse **before** your child returns to school.

### **PHYSICIAN LETTERS FOR CHRONIC SYMPTOMS:**

- If your child has a condition that causes any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as, seasonal allergies, or frequent headaches, etc. please provide a note from his or her physician detailing the diagnosis and the typical symptoms that your child experiences. Please send in an updated letter for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Having this documentation on file in the nurse's office will help to prevent unnecessary absences and missed learning time.

The guidance regarding COVID-19 continues to change rapidly and there are many different variables to be considered. Parents and guardians are encouraged to work closely with the School Nurse and Principal to determine the need for exclusion from school.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SCHOOL & CHILDCARE TOOLKIT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/school-childcare-toolkit-2021-2022.pdf>

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these important guidelines.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

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