

COVID Procedures and Updates for Families:

As of 3/2/22

The New York State Health Department and Department of Education released school guidance in regards to COVID. Below is a summary of some updates..

- 1.) As of 3/2/22 NY State lifted the school mask mandate in all public schools and on school transportation. Adults and students (in coordination with their families) can make a personal choice on whether or not they wear a mask.
- 2.) NY State is mandating that masks must be worn if a student or adult comes back to school before the end of their 10 day quarantine period. As long as symptoms are subsiding, individuals are eligible to come back to school on day 6 of a person with COVID's isolation period. In order for the person to return to school they must wear a mask except when eating. Your child may not remove their mask unless six feet from all classmates.
- 3.) At this time, all social distancing procedures are still being enforced in NY State schools. Students must maintain a 3 foot distance. Adults should continue to maintain a 6 foot distance from students and other adults.
- 4.) NY State is continuing to mandate that all unvaccinated faculty and staff continue to participate in weekly COVID testing. This NY mandate has been extended to May 25th and will be reevaluated by state officials.
- 5.) Faculty and staff will maintain seating charts to assist with identifying close contacts.
- 6.) Definition of Close contacts - In settings where masks are not worn, anyone within a 6 foot radius of an infected person for 15 or more minutes should be considered exposed.
 - If an individual is wearing a mask, close contacts are considered less than 3 feet from the person
- 7.) Exposed students and or adults will be contacted by office staff. If the exposed person is unvaccinated the person should be tested on day 1, day 3, and day 5. If the person is vaccinated he or she should be tested on day 1 and day 5. If a parent refuses testing, and the child is unvaccinated the child will have to stay home for 5 days after the exposure. If a parent refuses testing, and the child is vaccinated the child will be required to wear a mask in school.

- Individuals who are exposed are recommended to wear a mask
 - If a person is a contact and the individual had COVID within 3 months, the person is not required to test, unless the person has symptoms
 - An exposed person can choose to test at home using an at home test or can choose to be tested by a school nurse. If a person chooses to test at home, the district will not be collecting test results. The district will provide as many home tests as the person needs.
- 8.) If a person has symptoms the person should not return to school until feeling better and must present the school a negative COVID test.
- 9.) If a person tests positive for COVID, he or she must stay home for 5 days. The person can return to school on day 6 with a mask. As long as the person has no symptoms he or she can take off their mask on day 11.
- 10.) The Columbia County Health Department and district will be using the following community level tool from the CDC to assess positivity rates. If the county reaches a high level, protocols may change.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>