

Deer Park UFSD

Re-Opening Plan 2021-22



August 24, 2021

******UPDATED Removal of Mandated Masking in the School Setting 3/2/2022**

****UPDATED REOPENING MASK POLICY - February 15, 2022**

*****UPDATED TEST-TO-STAY Protocol - February 15, 2022**

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Introduction

The Deer Park Union Free School District is committed to the health, safety, and security of the staff, students, and community of Deer Park. The district's mission statement, vision statement, and core beliefs can be found [here](#).

In order to develop a plan to reopen safely, DPUFSD has received and taken into account guidance from the following Federal, State, and Local Departments:

- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#)
- [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#)
- [Suffolk County Department of Health \(SCDOH\)](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)

2021-22 Re-Opening Protocols

Learning Modality

All DPUFSD schools will be opened full-time for in person instruction. The first day of school is Wednesday, September 1, 2021. The district calendar and directory can be found [here](#).

Other options:

Live Streaming for Quarantined Students (Grades 6-12)

The district will offer classes via live streaming for students who have been ordered to quarantine by the DOH, or by district protocols in working in conjunction with the DOH.

Live Direct Remote Learning for Quarantined Students (Grades K-5)

~~The district will offer dedicated staff to deliver remote lessons to students in grades K-5 who have been quarantined by the DOH, or by district protocols in working in conjunction with the DOH.~~ The classroom teacher will provide individual students with assignments while on quarantine.

Remote Option for Medically Compromised Individuals

Deer Park UFSD will not offer an in district remote learning option for students who may be medically compromised, but, we have partnered with WS BOCES who will offer a regional remote option.

Face Masks

Staff and students must wear a face mask indoors. Therefore the following mask protocol must be followed:

- All staff and students, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask on school transportation, upon entrance of the building, during instruction (when mask breaks aren't possible), when travelling through hallways, and whenever social distancing is not possible.

Mask Breaks

- Students/staff may take intermittent mask breaks during independent work as long as social distancing is maintained.*Please note - room ventilation, class size, classroom activity, and ability to distance from others will contribute to determining the frequency of mask breaks.
- Masks may be removed for scheduled snacks/meals.
- Masks may be removed for scheduled snacks/meals. Frequency and duration of mask breaks will impact close contact determination and quarantine mandates.
- Masks are not required for any outdoor activities.
 - We will look for every opportunity to take children outside. Ex. Phys Ed, Music, Recess, Breaks for elementary students, etc.

UPDATED REOPENING MASK POLICY - February 15, 2022

Recommend that that Board of Education approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, on or about November 24, 2021, the New York State Department of Health re-adopted emergency regulation, 10 NYCRR 2.60, which requires indoor masking under certain circumstances, as determined by the Commissioner of Health based on COVID-19 incidence and prevalence, as well as any other public health and/or risk factors related to COVID-19; and WHEREAS, on or about December 10, 2021, the New York State Acting Commissioner of Health issued "Commissioner's Determination on Indoor Masking Pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60" which provided for "universal masking of teachers, staff, students and visitors to P-12 schools over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask and regardless of vaccination status"; and WHEREAS, said emergency regulation 10 NYCRR 2.60 expires February 21, 2022; and NOW, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education of the Deer Park Union Free District hereby declares that, upon the February 21, 2022 expiration of emergency regulation 10 NYCRR 2.60, or upon its earlier repeal or vacatur by a court of

competent jurisdiction, and provided that no other law, rule, regulation or decision/order is subsequently adopted requiring mandatory face covering/masking in P-12 schools, it shall be the policy of the Board of Education that each individual Deer Park Union Free School District teacher, student, staff member and/or visitor will have the discretion to determine whether they will or will not wear a face mask while on District property unless that individual is under quarantine or isolation protocol pursuant to NYSDOH guidance which would necessitate the wearing of a mask. All members of the school community are expected to respect each individual's decision to wear or not wear a mask at such time as the mandate is lifted. Mask "shaming" of any kind will be considered in violation of the District's Code of Conduct, and the District's Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention policy. In accordance with current Federal guidelines mask wearing remains required on the school bus.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER THAT, the Board of Education of the Deer Park Union Free District hereby rescinds any portion of the District's Re-Opening Plan 2021-22 regarding mandatory face masking that is in conflict with this Resolution.

UPDATED - Implementation of the Removal of Mandated Masking in the School Setting - March 2, 2022

The state requirement for universal masking in P-12 school settings ended on March 2, 2022. Decisions on masking that are more protective than state requirements may be made by local health departments, guided by local conditions. Attention should be given to equity in the adoption of more protective measures, particularly testing.

Schools in NYS have been operating safely during the COVID-19 pandemic through adoption of recommended public health measures, including but not limited to masking. Additional mitigation measures should remain in use, including improved ventilation, widespread vaccination, testing and use of home test kits, maintaining physical distance as feasible, hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette, encouraging students and staff to stay at home when ill or symptomatic, and voluntary mask wearing for those who prefer the extra protection.

This updated guidance aligns with the new [CDC Community Burden Framework](#) which guides state and local jurisdictions on COVID-19 mitigation measures based on level of community burden. Counties are designated "Low" COVID-19 burden when there are fewer than 200 new cases per 100,000 residents over the previous 7 days, there are fewer than 10 new admissions per 100,000 persons total over the previous 7 days, and less than 10% of all occupied inpatient hospital beds are occupied by someone with COVID-19. CDC guidance recommends masking for all individuals, including in schools, when a jurisdiction is at "High" community burden. Local health departments are strongly encouraged to implement universal masking when the county COVID-19 community burden is high.

MASKING:

Students, staff and teachers must wear masks on return to school during Days 6 – 10 of their

isolation period.

NYSDOH recommends students, staff and teachers wear masks when:

- They feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons.
- They were in the same room within the school as someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer and were thus exposed or potentially exposed, when group contact tracing is used (see below).
- They are known to have been exposed to COVID-19 in any setting within the previous 10 days.
- They are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider(s).

Masks should be well-fitted and appropriately worn (to cover nose and mouth) and should conform to [CDC guidelines for masks and respirators](#).

Masking is no longer required on school buses or vans. Individuals who are required to wear masks in school should wear masks on school transport.

School monitoring of masking compliance should focus on ensuring anyone returning from a new COVID-19 infection is appropriately wearing a well-fitting mask on days 6-10.

Masked and unmasked people will be working and learning alongside each other in schools. DPUFSD maintains an environment where those who wear a mask, whether by choice, expectation, or requirement, are not stigmatized, bullied, or made to feel uncomfortable and likewise, those for whom masks have not been required or recommended are not stigmatized, bullied or made to feel uncomfortable. Pursuant to the Dignity For All Students Act, students have the right to a school environment free from harassment and bullying. DPUFSD will communicate mask policy changes to the local community to manage expectations. DPUFSD will also communicate about and plan for a possible return to universal mask wearing should community burden increase.

Whenever persons are expected or required to wear masks, masks may be removed when eating, drinking, singing, going outside, or playing a wind instrument. When masks are removed for these purposes, physical distancing of 6 or more feet should be maintained to the extent possible.

NYS and DPUFSD align with the [CDC definition of close contact in schools](#). In the school setting, with universal masking, a close contact was generally defined as less than 3 feet from an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. The exception allowing 3-feet of distance to determine exposure in schools does not apply to unmasked individuals, nor does it apply to teachers, staff, or other adults regardless of masking. **This means that in settings where masks are not worn, anyone within a 6-foot radius of an infected person should be considered exposed.** This “zone of exposure” does not mean schools should rearrange the

physical footprint or space students six feet apart.

Classroom Air Flow

- Classroom windows must remain open at temperatures 45 degrees and above.

Transportation

- School bus capacity has been restored to pre-pandemic capacity.
- ~~Students and staff must wear masks at all times while on district provided transportation, unless a medical exemption is on file and approved.~~
- Windows and hatches of all district transportation will be opened when the exterior temperature is 45 degrees or higher.
- Late buses will return to pre-pandemic schedules.

Nurses' Offices

- Nurses will maintain a treatment, triage and isolation area during the pandemic.
- The triage area is for students who are experiencing non-covid illness.
- Hearing/vision/scoliosis screenings will take place in the treatment area as per pre-pandemic protocols.
- Students who are identified as a potential positive case will be isolated. Parent/guardian will be notified for pick-up. Contact tracing will be implemented.
- Students who are awaiting test results may not return to school.
- The nurses are here to help you make the best informed decisions on whether your child should stay home. Please reach out to them with any questions/concerns you may have.
- Students and school personnel should stay home if they are showing signs and symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19, and get tested.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to their child attending school each day.

Student and Staff Entry

- The CDC no longer recommends temperature screenings or screening questionnaires at school. However, schools should be proactive in communicating that children experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should be tested for COVID-19 and stay home.
- Families should be reminded and encouraged to be mindful of their children exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and to seek testing when such symptoms are present. The CDC maintains a list of COVID-19 symptoms on its website.

Visitor Policy

- ~~Visitors will be required to complete the DPSD Health Questionnaire upon arrival.~~
- No visitors will be allowed entrance if they are awaiting test results or are symptomatic.

Music Classes

- At the elementary level, bring class to the music room. Band and Chorus w/ social distancing and sectional pedagogy. Orchestra 3 foot spacing.
- At the secondary level, 3 foot spacing in Band and Chorus rehearsals/ lessons. Outdoor spaces utilized when possible. Sectional teaching utilized (students unmasked for less than 14 min a period and min. 6 feet apart while playing.)
- At the secondary level, 3 foot spacing in Orchestra and Guitar rehearsals and lessons.
- When masks are removed during singing or playing wind instruments, physical distancing of 6 or more feet should be maintained to the extent possible.

Social Distancing Classrooms and Other Learning Spaces

- 3 feet regardless of mask/unmasked status
- Please note: Using 3 feet of distance to determine close contact was permissible when everyone wore a mask. The new guidance has been developed based on the assumption that most people will no longer be wearing masks in schools. In the school setting, when masks are not worn, the distance to determine whether an individual is “exposed” or a “close contact” in schools is 6 feet of distance. If the school is conducting classic contact tracing and both the infected student and the student(s) for whom exposure status is being determined were wearing well-fitting masks, then the distance to determine “close contact” may be 3 feet. There is nothing in the new guidance that would require a school to reconfigure its physical spaces to accommodate 6 feet of distance between students.

Social Distancing in Cafeterias in Elementary

- JQA-6 feet apart in cafeteria
- MM/JFK - In order to maintain social distancing, classes will rotate between eating in the cafeteria and classrooms during lunch 6 feet apart
- JFK will be eating breakfast in the cafeteria 6 feet apart
- MM will be eating breakfast in their classrooms 6 feet apart where possible

Social Distancing in Cafeterias at Secondary

- Robert Frost & High School- Breakfast will be grab and go and eat in homebase/1st period.
- High School - Lunch is 3 feet apart (student desks)
- Robert Frost -Lunch is 3 feet apart (combination of student desks and cafeteria tables)

Hallway Passing - Secondary

- RFMS - Traditional bell schedule, but extra time in PM for dismissal.

- DPHS - Traditional bell schedule, Regular 9 period day. No extra time in AM/PM for arrival/dismissal.

Ceremonies

- Traditional award ceremonies will take place on a case by case basis.

Locker Use at JFK

- Students use with certain restrictions (staggered procedures)

Locker Use at Secondary

- No lockers issued in the 1st Quarter. Will revisit in November.

Gym Locker/Locker Rooms Use at Secondary

- No locker room or gym lockers for Physical Education classes.
- Sports locker rooms and lockers for athletes only. Lockers will be marked so they are socially distanced. Students changing will be staggered.

Bathroom Use at Secondary

- 2 students admitted at a time. If there is an emergency the nurses office will be available.

Bathroom Use at JFK

- 3-4 students admitted at a time. If there is an emergency the nurses office will be available.

Recess in Elementary Schools & Middle School

Students in elementary schools will once again be able to enjoy recess privileges. Cohorting will not be required, as students will be able to mingle with students from other classes. Students will be able to use playground equipment.

Masks are encouraged, but not required for any outdoor activities.

Interscholastic Sports

Students will be able to participate in interscholastic sports at both RFMS (grades 7 & 8) and DPHS. Athletes will not need to be tested in order to participate. We will continue to monitor

changes in requirements and procedures for athletics as updated guidance is provided through NYSPHSAA.

Spectators for Sports

- Spectators will be able to attend outdoor sporting events without any restrictions. ~~Masks are encouraged but not required for any outdoor activity.~~
- Spectators can attend indoor sports. ~~provided they wear a mask and can maintain 3 ft of social distance with non-household members.~~

Clubs and Activities

- Clubs and extracurricular activities will resume at all 5 buildings
- Late buses have been restored to pre-pandemic schedule

Committee on Special Education Meetings

Committee on Special Education Meetings will be held virtually unless an in-person meeting is requested by a student's parent or guardian.

Monitoring the Health of Students and Staff

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to their child attending school each day.
- Students and school personnel should stay home if they are showing signs and symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19, and get tested.
- Students and staff who have tested for Covid-19 must remain home pending test results. They should not report to work or school during this wait period. If results are positive please refer to the Suffolk County Department of Health isolation and quarantine guidance. If results are negative please submit appropriate documentation to the building nurse (students) and personnel office (staff).
- The CDC recommends that covering coughs and sneezes can help keep educators, staff, and students from getting and spreading COVID-19 and other infectious illnesses.
- The CDC recommends that educators and school leaders reinforce good etiquette in school by:
 - Encouraging adults and students to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
 - Reminding everyone in school to wash their hands frequently and to assist young children with handwashing; and,
 - When handwashing isn't possible, encourage the use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol for all adults and students who can safely use it.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

The DPUFSD will continue to collaborate with the Suffolk County Department of Health, to the extent allowable by privacy laws such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 in their school communities.

NEW *UPDATED 4/6/22 Click here for [Guidelines for Covid-10 Symptoms, Confirmed Cases and Exposures.](#)

- Identify which students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should isolate, ~~and which close contacts should quarantine.~~
- Report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to the SCDOH as soon as we are informed.
- To the extent allowable, notify the teachers, staff, and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible after we are notified that someone in the school has tested positive (within the same day if possible).

NOTIFICATIONS:

- To protect themselves and others and stop the spread of COVID-19 in the household and community, schools should notify through either group or individual level contact tracing affected school staff, students, and their parents/guardians whenever an individual either:
 1. Was in the same room as an infected individual and so was exposed or potentially exposed (i.e., in the same classroom as an infected individual for longer than 15 minutes), if schools are employing "group level contact tracing," or
 2. Was identified as being exposed because they were a close contact of an infected individual if schools are employing "individual level contact tracing."

Note: Group contract tracing, (e.g., classroom, school bus), in #1 above, is expected to alleviate the need for most classic ("individual") contact tracing in schools. Criterion #2 above should be used if the school is conducting individual-level contact tracing to reduce the number of students affected by masking/testing and in some situations where there might have been exposures outside the classroom setting, such as non-classroom-based extracurricular activities.

NYSDOH recommends exposed or potentially exposed individuals follow [NYSDOH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance](#) for testing and masking.

- The CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected

student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. [Additional guidance for wearing masks is available from the CDC.](#)

- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Unvaccinated identified close contacts will be required to quarantine for a period of 10 days.
- According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 5-7 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

***While fully vaccinated individuals need not quarantine if identified as a close contact, employees and students who are residing with an individual who tests positive, should remain out of work/school for 5 calendar days, and may return following a negative test.

Updated: 3/2/2022 -Testing in a School Setting with Reduced Mask Usage

Testing in a school setting with reduced mask usage In the absence of a statewide masking requirement, COVID-19 testing remains a recommended public health strategy for surveillance and to identify infected individuals quickly so that they can isolate and avoid spreading COVID-19 further. New York State has provided schools with over 20 million tests to support this strategy. Whenever someone in school – student, staff or teacher – is determined to have been exposed or potentially exposed, the individual should be tested for COVID-19 as follows:

- Consider testing immediately upon learning of the exposure or potential exposure,
- At least 5 days after the last date of exposure or potential exposure, regardless of vaccination status,
- If the individual is not fully vaccinated and attending or working at school after an exposure or potential exposure, frequent testing (e.g., daily, every other day, at least twice within 5 days) from the date of the exposure or potential exposure (Day 0) through at least day 5 should be strongly considered and encouraged,
- Exclude from school if a test is positive and/or exclude from school and test as soon as possible if symptoms develop,
- Exception: Individuals with lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 3 months do not need to get tested unless they develop symptoms.

Symptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status or recent infection, should stay home until tested and if positive or not tested, should isolate for 5 days, or until other criteria are met for school attendance (e.g., resolution of fever), whichever is longer. [The NYSDOH flow chart](#) addresses school attendance and requirements for children who have symptoms consistent with vaccine side effects shortly after receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Exposed school staff and students and/or their parents/guardians are primarily responsible for ensuring that recommended testing occurs. Schools may supply testing kits to affected families

for testing at home and/or provide access to existing testing programs at the school. To ensure that all families can comply with recommended testing, schools should conduct (if able and with consent) or facilitate or make available the recommended testing when families express concerns about their ability to do the testing.

Schools must remain current on their reporting of all COVID-19 test results that they conduct or that they become aware of, including results of home testing, to the New York State COVID-19 Report Card, in addition to their other reporting obligations under Public Health Law.

Exposed individuals, regardless of vaccination status, may remain in school by appropriately wearing a well-fitting mask and undergoing recommended testing and may participate in school-based extracurricular activities. These individuals also may continue to ride the school bus.

Updated: February 15, 2022

Test-to-Stay (TTS) Protocol

Only for District-Deemed Close Contacts Who are Asymptomatic & Unvaccinated

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) adopted the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requirements regarding the option to Test-to-Stay (TTS) for unvaccinated close contacts (students and staff). TTS has the potential to shorten typical 10-day/5-day quarantine periods. All requirements must be fulfilled by any school district that wishes to implement the Test-to-Stay (TTS) protocol through serial testing using rapid NAAT or antigen tests during a five-day period as follows:

- The exposure must have occurred in the school setting.
- The exposed person remains asymptomatic; if the exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS develops symptoms, they must be immediately excluded from school per current school guidance.
- The exposed person is tested **a minimum of two times during the five-day period** following exposure, unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene. See minimum testing requirements below.
- The five-day period is measured in calendar days where the last date of exposure is considered day 0. The first test should be done as soon as possible after exposure is identified (i.e., the first day the student is in school after identified exposure). **Please note that the first test must be given within 48 hours of being notified by the District.**

Minimum Testing Cadences		
Day of First Test	Day of Second Test	Day of Third Test
0	2 or 3	5

1	3	5
2	4 or 5	5 (if 2nd test was on day 4)
3	5	NA
4	5	NA
5	NA	NA

~~This table is intended to be a guide. Adjustments will be made to account for weekends and other non-school days, in which case a test should be conducted on the first school day back and continue thereafter according to the above. The last test should be done on day 5 whenever day 5 is a school day. The district also has the option of conducting additional testing at their discretion (e.g. testing on day 6-7 if day 5 is not a school day).~~

- ~~Each test must be conducted and the result received by the school nurse before the school day begins, and positive individuals excluded/isolated per existing procedures.~~
- ~~If the test is done in an unmonitored setting (e.g. home using an over the counter, or OTC, rapid test), the parent/guardian or staff member must attest to the fact that the test was done correctly, on the correct person, and in accordance with the instructions provided. (Please click [HERE](#) for the Google TTS Attestation Form which must be completed each time an OTC rapid test is conducted and the results are submitted to the school nurse.)~~
- ~~The exposed person who is allowed to remain in school through TTS must be quarantined outside of school instruction/academic periods (on weekends/holidays when the seven-day TTS period is still active, but no school test is required; after school/evenings; no community activities or extracurricular participation including clubs, sports, arts/performance activities, etc.). **Please note that students participating in TTS are allowed to continue to ride the school bus following all existing guidance, including required masking.**~~

The Deer Park Union Free School District has adopted the Test-to-Stay (TTS) protocol in accordance with all of the aforementioned requirements.

For Staff: An individual who has met the above requirements and opts to participate in the Test-to-Stay protocol must contact Mary Reynolds, District Administrator for Human Resources.

For Students: The parent/guardian of a student who has met the above requirements and opts to participate in the Test-to-Stay protocol must submit a request in writing to the building principal who will subsequently provide the parent/guardian with the Google TTS Attestation Form to complete.

Positive Case Protocol

While specific protocols vary and more guidance from the CDC may be forthcoming, there are

some common elements for each possible COVID19 scenario:

- Evaluate symptoms
 - Separate from others
 - Clean and disinfect spaces visited by the person
 - Test for COVID-19 and stay at home while awaiting results
- If test is positive:
- Remain at home at least 10 days and until at least 3 days have passed with no symptoms
 - Fever and improvement in other symptoms
 - Monitor symptoms
 - Notify the school and personal close contacts
 - Answer the call from local board of health or NY Tracing
 - Collaborate to help identify close contacts to help them prevent transmission
 - Secure release from contact tracers (local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative) for return to school
 - Maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations

Cleaning Protocols

The virus that causes COVID-19 can land on surfaces. It's possible for people to become infected if they touch those surfaces and then touch their nose, mouth, or eyes. In most situations, the [risk of infection from touching a surface is low](#). The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to [regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer](#). Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces can also reduce the risk of infection.

DPUFSD follows standard practices and appropriate regulations specific to schools for minimum standards for cleaning and disinfection.

- Clean high-touch surfaces at least once a day or as often as determined is necessary. Examples of high-touch surfaces include: pens, counters, shopping carts, tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, stair rails, elevator buttons, desks, keyboards, phones, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Exemption to weekly unvaccinated staff/teacher testing for recently recovered persons

School staff/teachers who were diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19 within the past 3 months are not subject to the weekly testing requirement established in 10 NYCRR 2.62, which remains in effect. Asymptomatic individuals exposed to COVID-19 who have been previously diagnosed with laboratory confirmed COVID-19, and have since recovered, are not required to retest and quarantine within 3 months after the date of symptom onset from the initial COVID-19

infection or date of first positive diagnostic test if asymptomatic during illness. Schools will have to keep track of when the 3 months is over, at which time the staff person should resume testing.

Under these regulations, local health officials are given the duty and accompanying discretion as to how the requirements will be enforced.

School Exclusion:

Schools should monitor mask wearing and track the use of recommended testing and may focus these activities on those at higher risk.

When schools become aware of failure to comply with recommended testing, then individuals who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccination should stay home for 5 days after exposure. Individuals who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccination should be encouraged to complete the recommended testing but are not required to be excluded from school unless by policy of the school or local health department, as long as they wear a mask as recommended.

Some individuals may be medically unable to wear a mask. Schools or local health departments may decide on a case-by-case basis whether these individuals should be excluded from school or allowed to remain in school if exposed or potentially exposed. Examples of factors to consider include:

- The level of risk of the exposure (e.g., ongoing household exposure imposes a higher risk than exposure within six feet of distance or classroom exposure), The feasibility of conducting frequent testing (e.g., at least every other day) during the 5 days after exposure,
- Whether there are individuals in the classroom who are known to be at high risk for severe disease,
- The individual's vaccination status,
- Other mitigation measures in place (e.g., ventilation, distancing) and whether they can be strengthened or are already optimized
- Circumstances of the child's learning and school attendance needs (e.g., cannot participate in remote instruction).

Frequently Asked Questions

[Click here to find answers to some frequently asked questions.](#)