

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please be aware that the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recently issued new guidance regarding vaccination status and the need for quarantine should there be exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 in school settings (please [click here](#) to view the NJDOH updated guidance from 1/19/22). The new guidance differs from prior guidance and now adds boosters as a factor to consider in event of an exposure.

Based on this updated guidance, WTPS will be implementing the following protocol beginning on the NJDOH start date of February 1st:

Close contacts who have no COVID-19 compatible symptoms in the following groups **will not be excluded** from school:

- Age 12 or older who *have received* all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised individuals.
- Age 5-11 years who *are fully vaccinated* (at least 2 weeks after completion of a primary vaccine series).
- Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

Close contacts who have no COVID-19 compatible symptoms in the following groups **will be excluded** from school:

- Age 12 or older who completed the primary series of a recommended COVID-19 vaccine, but *have not received* a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- Age 5-11 years who *are not fully vaccinated* (at least 2 weeks after completion of a primary vaccine series).

In addition, the NJDOH reversed their prior guidance for those who would be considered *school-based* close contacts. Close contacts once again include those who were exposed during the period between 2 days prior to symptom onset (or positive test date if asymptomatic) and 5 days after. Individuals would NOT be considered exposed during the positive case's additional precaution period at day 6-10.

If you would like to upload or resubmit your child's updated COVID-19 vaccination record, please go to the district website or [CLICK HERE](#).

We understand that the constant changes to the guidance can be challenging to track and overwhelming at times. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's School Nurse or Supervisor of Health Services Mary Landowski, RN at mlandowski@wayneschools.com.

As always, thank you for your continued support and patience. Hopefully as the number of positive cases continues to drop, we will be able to reduce some of the measures currently being used to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our district.