

Wayne Township Public Schools

Return to School FAQ

January 2, 2022

Prior to the break, we learned there was an option for a test and stay program that would make it possible for unvaccinated students to remain in school even after being identified as a close contact. What is the status of the “test and stay” option?

The New Jersey Department of Health issued interim guidance making it possible for school districts to establish a “test and stay” program. However, the guidance includes a number of requirements that will require time to implement.

What is the current quarantine time during Very High COVID-19 Activity Levels? Quarantine for positive COVID-19 cases is 10 days. The NJDOH indicates that school districts should continue to follow the 10 day rule. Quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts is 10 days. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 are exempt from quarantine if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within 90 days of their positive test date.

How do I notify the school district about a situation where my child tested positive for COVID during the break or update my child’s vaccination status?

*In order to have a better understanding of where we stand, the District is collecting information about positive student cases over the recess on a **voluntary** basis. Please click [HERE](#) if you choose to share this information so that we are able to update our records. You should also email your building principal. Parents may share their child’s vaccination status on the Updated Health and Safety Guidance page of the District website or click [HERE](#) to upload your child’s CDC COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination (ages 5+).*

Under what conditions would the District determine that a school should close?

The District has remained open all year and we continue to make every effort to keep our schools open. School closure is a last option when all other efforts have failed. There are two likely scenarios that would lead to a school closure.

In the event that there is substantial COVID spread linked to a school, the District is required to seek guidance from the local Department of Health regarding a school closure. If closure is necessary, students and staff would move to a remote instructional model for the duration of the closure.

Staffing is another key issue when considering school closures. The COVID-19 staff and student data is being assessed daily and a decision to switch a school to remote would only happen in situations where a building does not have adequate staff to safely open. We are reassigning staff on a constant basis to ensure proper supervision and care. In the event that the district is unable to provide adequate supervision, nursing services, or custodial services to safely operate the school building, the school would then switch to a remote instruction for the necessary period of time until the situation is remedied.

Yesterday, it was announced that the Montclair Schools will be offering a parental choice for remote instruction for their children with the understanding that some parents/guardians are not comfortable sending their child(ren) back to school. How is it possible that Montclair is offering this option, and it is not being offered in the Wayne Schools?

After working with the New Jersey Department of Education last week to inquire about this option, the NJDOE indicated that no school district has this option based on the fact that Governor Murphy's executive order allowing for parental options for virtual instruction expired.

My child was exposed to COVID. Does this qualify them for live-streaming?

Maybe...Nothing has changed regarding qualification for live-streamed instruction. Students who are required to quarantine based on positive test results or close contact determined by the school nurse will qualify for live-streamed instruction. All others will continue to access classwork in Google Classroom.