

**Wayne Township Public Schools**  
**Updated COVID-19 FAQ**  
**January 14, 2022**

**What are the quarantine times for students identified as close contacts?**

Quarantine time for unvaccinated students was reduced from ten (10) days to five (5) days although it is recommended, but not required, that students attending school under the reduced quarantine timeline receive a COVID-19 test at least five (5) days after exposure. Identified close contacts must wear a well-fitting mask at all times upon returning to school (indoors and outdoors) and be monitored for symptoms for an additional five (5) days.

Students who are fully-vaccinated (two weeks after completion of a primary vaccine series) and asymptomatic may remain in school with testing recommended, but not required, at least five (5) days after exposure. In addition, they must wear a well-fitting mask around others (indoors and outdoors) and be monitored for symptoms for ten (10) days after exposure.

Students who have received a positive COVID-19 test within the three (3) months preceding the date of exposure are not required to quarantine.

**What is the updated definition of close contact and contact tracing?** A close contact is still considered to be any person in contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes during a 24 hour period. *However, there is one significant change that reduces the time period when an individual would be considered to be a close contact. There is no longer a two day lookback period.* Previously, students could be identified as close contacts even if exposed two days prior to a positive test or to a symptomatic individual. Now a student is considered exposed only if they had close contact during a positive case's isolation period (day 1-5). Students would not be considered exposed during the additional precaution period (day 6-10). This means that students considered to be close contacts with a student returning from a reduced isolation period would not need to quarantine.

**What are the isolation times for students testing positive for COVID?** Isolation time for those who test positive for COVID-19 was reduced from (10) days to five (5) days from the date of testing. Students may return to school when symptoms improve, they are feeling better, and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without pain-reducing medication. In addition, they must wear a well-fitting mask at all times (indoors and outdoors) and be monitored for symptoms for an additional five (5) days upon return to school.

**Are there exceptions to those affected who may be able to reduce isolation and quarantine periods?**

The reduced isolation period does not apply to those whose illness included evidence of lower respiratory disease, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, and those close contacts or individuals who tested positive with weakened immune systems, are medically fragile, or are unable to wear a mask properly and consistently. These students would be required to isolate or quarantine for ten (10) days.

**Can my child have an antibody test to determine the need for quarantine following close contact with someone who has COVID-19?**

No. According to CDC guidance, an antibody test is not to be used to determine the need for quarantine following close contact with someone who has COVID-19. Unvaccinated persons, including those who have previously tested antibody positive, should follow current guidance to prevent COVID-19 infection. Only students who have received a positive COVID-19 test within the three (3) months preceding the date of exposure are not required to quarantine.

**When will these changes to the guidance be implemented in WTPS?**

The new guidance will be implemented beginning Tuesday January 18, 2022.

**Will I be able to reduce my child’s quarantine or isolation period to five days if they were identified as a close contact or tested positive before January 18th?**

No. Those who have been advised to isolate or quarantine for ten (10) days must complete the amount of time isolating or quarantining as per the earlier guidance. The new protocols apply only to those who test positive or who are directed to quarantine from Tuesday, January 18, 2022 or later.

**Example:**

<b>If you were directed to isolate or quarantine on:</b>	<b>Your return date is:</b>
Thursday, January 13th	Monday, January 24th
Friday, January 14th	Tuesday, January 25th
Saturday, January 15th	Wednesday, January 26th
Sunday, January 16th	Thursday, January 27th
Monday, January 17th	Friday, January 28th
Tuesday, January 18th	Monday, January 24th

### **What is the current travel quarantine?**

No quarantine is required for vaccinated or unvaccinated students returning from domestic travel. Vaccinated students who travel internationally are to test 3-5 days after return from travel. Students may return to school once a negative test result is received. Unvaccinated international travelers are to test 3-5 days after return from travel; however, they must quarantine a full five (5) days, returning on day 6.

### **What is the mask requirement for athletes and musicians who are returning from isolation (tested positive)?**

Participation in these activities (and other extracurricular activities) should be limited on days 6-10 to activities where masks can be worn consistently and correctly. The guidance does not allow for exceptions for days 6-10.

### **Is there a simplified explanation for all of this?**

The District created a one page document to try to simplify the guidance noting it will not cover all situations. Click [HERE](#) to view this document.

### **What if someone in the student's household tests positive for COVID-19?**

A student who remains in close contact with a household member who has tested positive begins their five (5) day quarantine period from the date of last close contact (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes/24 hours) with the COVID-19 positive individual. The last day of close contact is considered day 0.

- If a student remains in close contact with a household member with COVID-19 they should start their five (5) day quarantine period on the day after the household member would have completed their 10-day isolation.
- An exception is made if the household member is able to consistently wear a well fitted mask in the household through day 10, in which case the quarantine period would start on the day after the household member completes their 5-day isolation period.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antibody-tests-guidelines.html#:~:text=An%20antibody%20test%20should%20not,SARS%2DCoV%2D2%20infection>.

[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts\\_K12Schools.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf)

[https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/isolation\\_quarantine\\_nonhealthcare.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1F4CzL4fdAli1eNLN1GF3Qd4L7J\\_gyx3mICuw5njo7gbG1XjA1OuOUcCU](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/isolation_quarantine_nonhealthcare.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1F4CzL4fdAli1eNLN1GF3Qd4L7J_gyx3mICuw5njo7gbG1XjA1OuOUcCU)