

**WALLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*“There is Power in Pride”*  
[www.wboe.org](http://www.wboe.org)

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Dear Parents/Staff:

I write to you today to bring to your attention some changes in NJ Department of Health Guidelines for PK-12 School Districts that were released last week. In short, the New Jersey Department of Health has adopted CDC guidelines on isolation and quarantine for those who test positive for COVID 19 or for those who have been close contacts to those with COVID 19. Isolation and quarantine times have been reduced to **5 days** in most cases, and this change applies to students and staff members as well.

Along with the release of these new guidelines, there are several measures that we will all need to take to ensure our continued health and safety. Some of the most important of these measures are listed below:

- Students and staff must be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school on day 6.
- Symptoms must be subsiding or decreasing by the 5th day of isolation.
- Those returning to school after day five must continue to wear a well-fitting mask and socially distance as much as possible until at least the 10th day back in school.

To view the Dept of Health updated guidelines, please refer to the document linked [HERE](#).

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**Isolation for those infected with COVID-19 who are symptomatic:**

**Persons who test positive for COVID-19 and are symptomatic OR persons with COVID-19 symptoms who were not tested or who are waiting for their test results:**

Stay home and isolate from others for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms)

1. If symptoms resolve (fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, and other symptoms improve), isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6)

2. If symptoms continue (fever or if other symptoms have NOT improved), continue to isolate until fever-free for at least 24 hours and other symptoms have improved.

### **Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but have NO symptoms:**

Stay home and isolate from others for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test).

1. If no symptoms develop, isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e. on day 6).
2. If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms. Follow recommendations for ending isolation for persons who have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Quarantine for those in close contact with someone with COVID-19**

#### **Who should quarantine?**

Individuals in the following groups who had close contact with someone with COVID-19 DO need to quarantine and should take additional precautions during and after quarantine:

1. Persons  $\geq$  12 years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
2. Persons who are not fully vaccinated (haven't completed a primary vaccine series).

#### **Who should not quarantine?**

Individuals in the following groups who had close contact with someone with COVID-19 do NOT need to be quarantined but should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days and get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact. If the test is positive or if COVID-19 symptoms develop, follow isolation recommendations.

1. Persons  $\geq$  12 years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine AND have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
2. Children 5-11 years old who completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
3. Persons who have had a case of confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days (viral test).

These guidelines are continually updated, and our district will endeavor to keep you up to date with any future changes as soon as they are released. Please contact this office or the office of your school nurse if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

***James J. Albro***

James J. Albro, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools