



Derry Township School District

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Dear Derry Township Families,

We hope that you had a wonderful winter break full of quality time with your loved ones. We enjoyed welcoming back our students this morning and are ready to get started in 2022!

Over the winter break, we received new guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). These changes are complex and require additional explanation. They also require us to update our procedures for quarantining and COVID-positive students.

The CDC recommends shortening the time of isolation from the public. Students will be required to isolate for a minimum of 5 days for a confirmed case of COVID-19, instead of the 10 days that was previously required. We have also updated our [symptom flow chart on our website](#) based on the new CDC guidelines and the changes can also be found below.

For students who have a confirmed case of COVID-19:

- A student who has confirmed a positive case of COVID-19 can return to school when:
 - At least 5 days have passed since the date of symptom onset or date of the test;
and
 - Respiratory and presenting symptoms have improved; **and**
 - Wears a mask at school for 5 additional days.
**If your child still has a fever after day 5, they should continue to stay home until their fever resolves*

For symptomatic students:

- **If testing for COVID-19 is not performed**, students should isolate at home until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and their respiratory and presenting symptoms have improved, and at least 5 days have passed since date of symptom onset, and wears a mask at school for 5 additional days.

- **If testing for COVID-19 is negative**, students should stay home until fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are resolved. Proof of a negative test will be required to return to school in this situation. At home tests are not accepted as proof of negativity.
- **If released by a physician due to a confirmed non-COVID related illness**, students should base their return date on the doctor's release. Students must present a physician's note to the school nurse prior to returning to school.

Students who are in close contact with someone with COVID-19 when Universal Masking is in place:

- Students will not be required to quarantine after being exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual as long as they remain asymptomatic, provided both students were engaged in consistent and well-fitting face-masks.

Students who are in close contact with someone with COVID-19 when Universal Masking is in not in place:

- Students that have been boosted; **OR** Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months; **OR** Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months will be required to be tested on Day 5 in order to remain at school. Students who refuse to be tested will be required to quarantine for 5 additional days.

DTSD Rapid Antigen Testing

Just as a reminder the District has partnered with [Concentric by Ginkgo](#) to make an optional COVID-19 diagnostic testing program available to interested families and staff at no cost. This optional and free program is designed to provide an extra layer of protection to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The program has two components:

1. Symptomatic testing for students/staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 at home or school, and;
2. Asymptomatic testing for students/staff who may have been exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms.

Symptomatic students may only participate in the testing program with a signed consent form from a parent/guardian and the presence of a parent/guardian during the test itself. Students who are symptomatic and test negative will need to participate in a follow-up test a minimum of 2 days later to confirm the results.

Asymptomatic students/staff who may have been exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms will be able to remain at school/work provided their test result is negative. Students who are asymptomatic may only participate in the testing program with a signed consent form from a parent/guardian. However, the presence of a parent/guardian during the test itself is not required.

Consents forms are only sent to the parents/guardians of students or staff members that are showing symptoms of COVID-19 at home or school or may have been exposed to COVID-19 at home or school but are not showing symptoms.

At-home Testing

Derry Township School District will now accept at-home/over-the-counter for **positive** COVID tests results. Because of the variety of at-home/over-the-counter tests available to families, a copy of the test results (picture/screenshot) must be provided to the school nurse as well as the original packaging of the test(s). The picture/screenshot must include the name of the student and the date the test was administered. However, the district does not accept at-home/over-the-counter for **negative** COVID tests results.

Additionally, on our [symptom flowchart](#), you can find information regarding when your child may need to quarantine and other important information regarding masking, vaccines, and quarantining if universal masking is not in place.

We are encouraged by these charges, as it means in certain circumstances, we are able to return our students to in-person learning quicker than before. We will continue to keep our school community informed as changes are made or we receive new information from the CDC or Department of Health. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to work through keeping our students and staff safe and in school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacy Winslow and the Administrative Team