



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

School Leader Town Hall

August 12, 2022

**COVID-19 Protocols
SY 2022-2023**



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
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Student Health Services

Meet the Student Health Services Leadership Team!

Leslie Maddrey
Executive Director, Operations



Dr. Kendra B. McDow
School System Medical Officer



Shannon Smith, RN
Director of Nursing Services



Goals for SY 22-23



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- Keep students healthy and safe in school
- Keep schools open and students learning in-person
- Minimize disruption to school operations
- Rapidly identify outbreaks and implement appropriate public health measures
- Reduce SARS-COV-2 transmission in the school

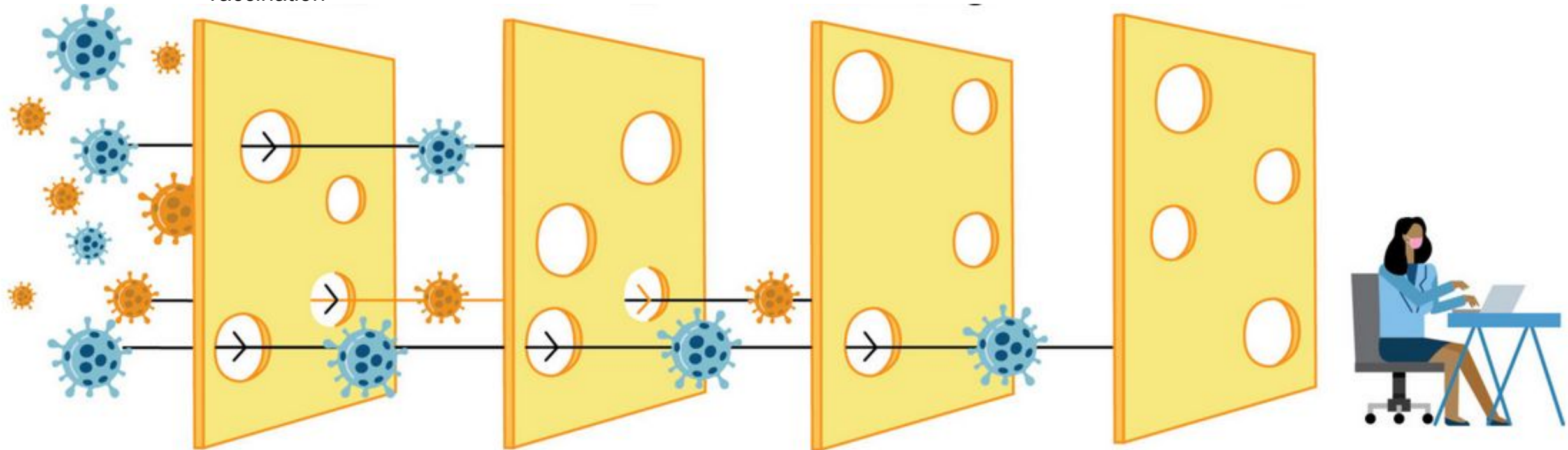
SY 21-22 COVID Protocols

- Vaccine mandate for student-athletes
- Vaccine mandate for staff
- Encouraging COVID vaccination

- Required Masking
- Weekly testing for unvaccinated
- In-school testing

- 10 day Quarantine for exposed
- 10 day Isolation for positive

- Enhanced cleaning & disinfection
- Ventilation
- Hand Hygiene
- 6 feet social distancing



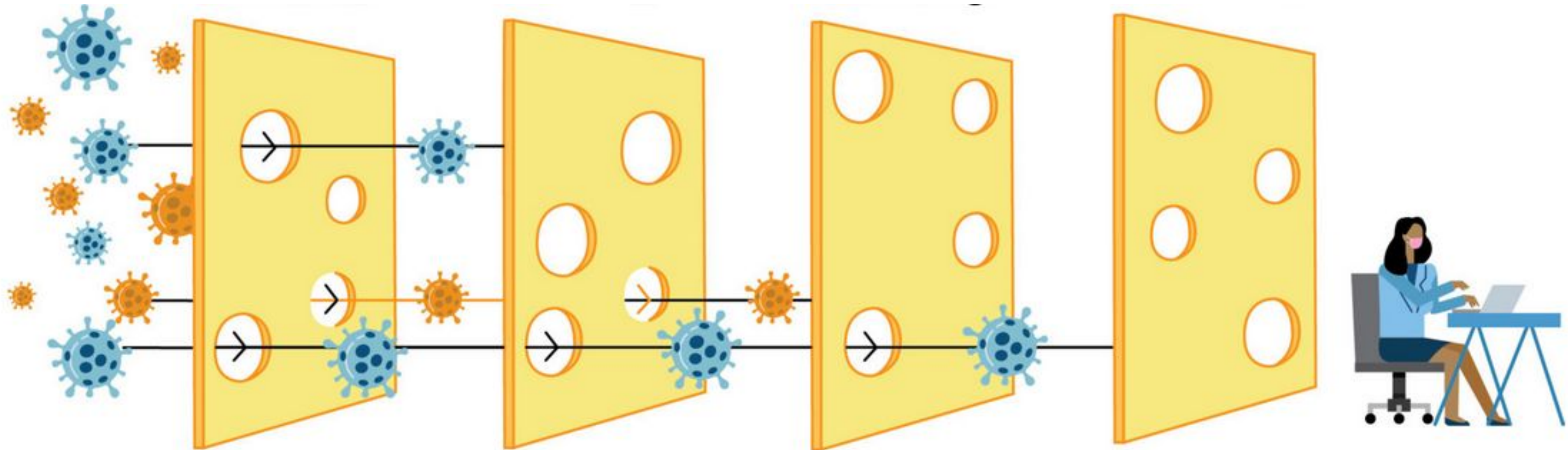
SY 22-23 COVID Protocols

- Vaccine mandate for staff
- Encouraging COVID vaccination

- Masking based on CDC Community Level
- In-school testing

- Mask to Stay
- 5 day Isolation for positive

- Enhanced cleaning & disinfection
- Ventilation
- Hand Hygiene
- 3 feet social distancing





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Vaccination

The **COVID vaccine** is the most effective tool to decrease severe disease and death from COVID

- All students and staff should remain up to date on COVID vaccinations.
- Per Board Policy, all staff members are required to be vaccinated to begin working at the School District of Philadelphia.
- At this time COVID vaccinations are not required for students, including student athletes. Vaccination clinics will continue to be held throughout the school year.



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Universal Masking

Masking based on CDC Community Level.

Mask required when Community Level is HIGH.

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a mask indoors in public• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms• Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

People may choose to mask at any time. People with [symptoms](#), [a positive test](#), or [exposure](#) to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are recommended in indoor public transportation settings and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.

- CDC's COVID Community Levels is publicly available data that helps communities and individuals make mask decision on COVID prevention strategies
- Updated weekly, every Thursday
- The Levels are classified as low, medium and high
- CDC recommends schools should follow guidance based on COVID Community Level specific to the location of the school

Masking Guardrails

- **To ensure the health and safety of students and staff SDP will apply guardrails that may require students and staff to mask during low or medium COVID-19 Community Level.**
- Universal indoor masking at the district, school or classroom-level may be recommended regardless of COVID Community Level when there is:
 - Concern for classroom or school-wide COVID-19 outbreak
 - Staff absenteeism due to COVID-19 impacts educational instruction and school operations
 - Students/staff returning to school after an extended academic calendar holiday *and* the COVID Community Level is high or medium (Summer Break, Thanksgiving, Winter Recess and Spring Recess)
- When universal indoor masking is recommended, masking will be required for a minimum of 10 full school days. The decision to continue masking will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis.

Masking guidance for SY 22-23

Masking will be *optional* for students and staff **except**:

- **for the first 10 days of the new school year – August 29 through September 9.**
- **when the COVID-19 Community Level is high** according to the [CDC COVID-19 Community Level Indicators](#). In this instance, the District will notify families and staff that indoor universal masking will be required in schools, school buses and offices until the Community Level returns to medium. **At a Community Level of medium, masking is strongly recommended.**
- **specific instances** where universal masking may be required, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, include:
 - **classroom- or school-wide outbreak,**
 - **or upon return from extended breaks and holidays** when increased social gatherings may heighten the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Students and staff at PreK Head Start programs are still required to wear masks at all times, regardless of the Community Level.



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Testing

In-school testing for students will be available this SY

- Students that develop COVID symptoms during the school day can get tested onsite in schools by the School Nurse. Parental consent for onsite testing by School Nurse or Testing Vendor must be on-file.
- **Students must have a consent on-file for SY 2022-2023**
- Students and staff exposed to COVID in the schools will be provided with OTC test kits for in-home administration of the test prior to return to school.
- During an in-school outbreak (3 or more cases in a cohort or 3 or more epidemiologically linked cases in a school community) the testing vendor will provide in-school COVID testing for students and staff. Parental consent for onsite testing by School Nurse or Testing Vendor must be on-file.

Convenience testing will be available for students and staff

- PCR tests for students and staff Monday through Friday through the testing vendor. [Five mobile testing sites remain operational during SY 22-23.](#)
- SDP will distribute OTC test kits to students and staff for convenience testing.
- Staff can receive tests for free through prescription (see information on [Benefits website](#))

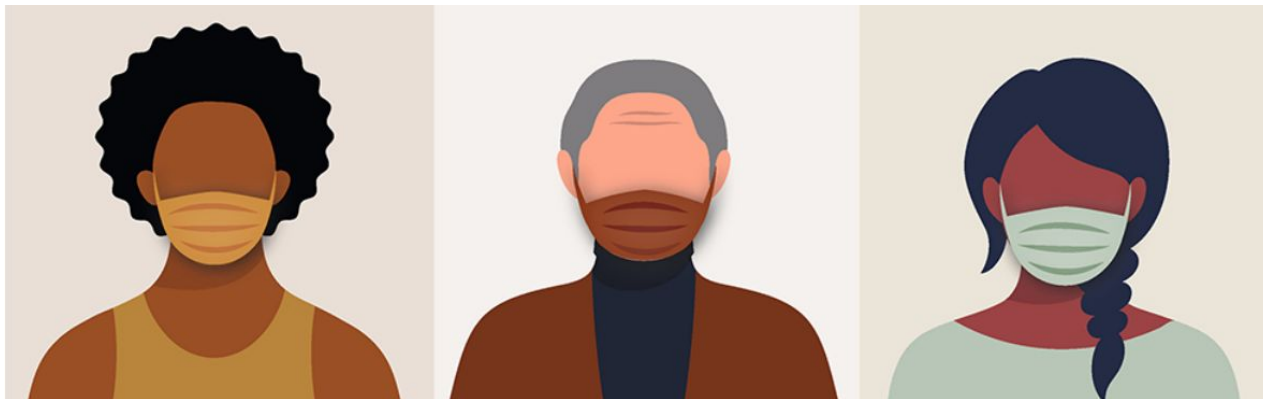


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Mask to Stay, in-school alternative to Quarantine

Mask to Stay is an in-school alternative to quarantine after COVID exposure. Decreasing staff and student absenteeism.

- Students and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, are no longer required to quarantine at home unless COVID-like symptoms are present. Instead, they may return to school but are required to wear a mask for 10 days.
- Accommodations are available for students with medical condition or disability that cannot wear a mask.



Close contacts of a positive case will Mask to Stay

- An employee or student who is identified as a close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 must:
 - Wear a mask for 10 days after their last date of exposure (Mask to Stay)
 - Self-monitor, or parent-monitor, for symptoms of COVID-19
 - Recommend to get tested within at least 48 hours and then day 5
 - If start experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 advised to immediately isolate and get tested
- Close contacts will have to mask regardless of vaccination status
- Students that refuse to wear a mask cannot participate in Mask to Stay and will have to quarantine at home for 10 days. Virtual learning will be available this school year.
- Accommodations are available for students who cannot mask due to disability/medical condition.



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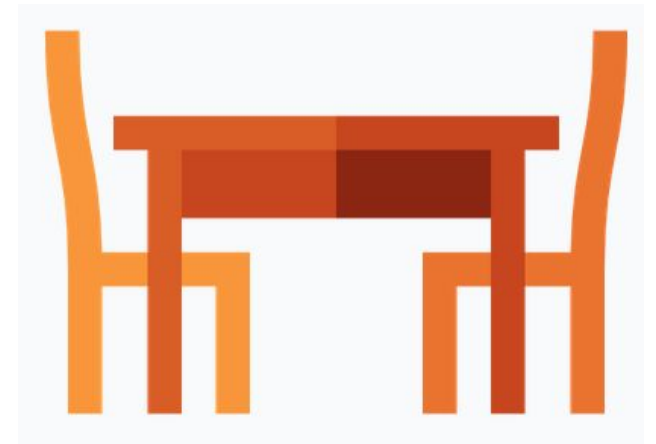
Isolation

Students and staff may isolate at home for at least 5 days if COVID positive

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate at home for at least 5 days and participate in virtual learning.
- Parents/guardians must also notify their school nurse or call the COVID Response Team at 215-400-5454.
- If symptom-free after 5 days of isolation, students and staff may return to school/work but must wear a high-quality (N95 or KN95) mask for an additional 5 days and must eat in a designated area.
- Students who do not want to eat in a designated area will have the option of isolating at home for 10 days.

Operational considerations for 5 day isolation

- Student and staff that are symptom-free and returning from 5 day isolation must continue to mask through day 10.
- During this period they will need to eat lunch in a designated area separate and distance from other students.
- Potential solutions: outdoor dining area, socially distanced area of the cafeteria, in homeroom, in the gym or library during the lunch period.





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Ventilation, Enhanced Disinfection & Social Distancing

Ventilation

- During Spring SY 2020-2021 air purifiers were put in all schools.

Social Distancing

- Recommend at least 3 feet physical distance when feasible.

Cleaning & Disinfection

- COVID enhanced cleaning and disinfection focused on high-touch areas.

Practice Hand Hygiene

- Students and staff are encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer is made available for students and staff.



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Notification of positive student or staff

COVID Symptoms

- Fever of 100.4°F or greater
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New or persistent cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Students, staff and parents/guardians should conduct daily self-screen at home before reporting to work or school.

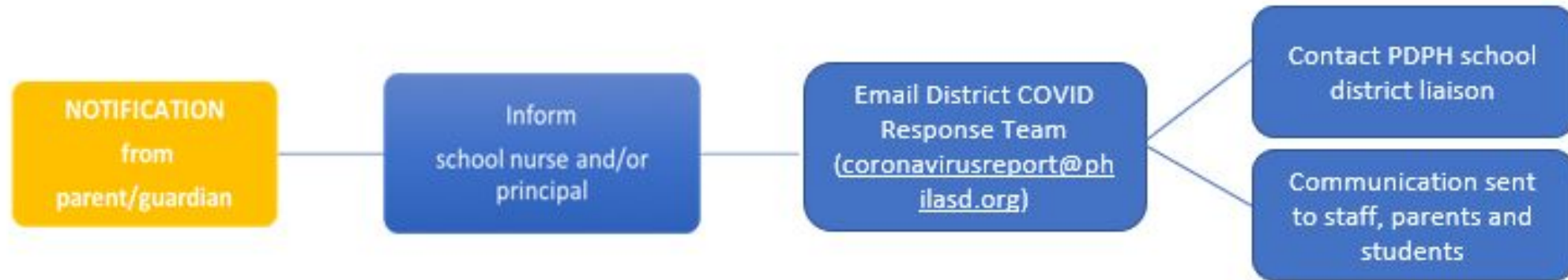
If staff or student feels sick, they should not enter a school district building.

School administrator should notify the COVID Response Team of positive cases

- Employees/School administrators call CRT @ 215-400-5454
 - 8:00am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday
 - The email address is coronavirusreport@philasd.org
- Complete the [Positive COVID-19 Notification Form](#) (found on COVID-19 Hub Staff Section)



Parent/guardian must notify the school nurse if a student is COVID positive





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Workflow for students who develop symptoms in-school

Students who develop symptoms in school should be assessed by the school nurse

Teacher's Role

- Teacher will call the Health Room prior to sending the student and notify the nurse of the reason for the visit.
- Teacher will assign an adult to accompany the student to the Healthroom if age warrants accompaniment. Adult will present student to nurse and leave the healthroom.

Nurse's Role

- Based on the teacher's description, the nurse will determine the area of treatment: Healthroom or Medical Waiting Room.
- Students will be assessed in the Medical Waiting Room if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 illness
- Nurse will perform prompt and appropriate assessment and documentation as per protocol.
- **If student meets the criteria for COVID-19 testing as per protocol, and the student's family has consented to COVID-19 testing, the nurse will administer BinaxNOW test adhering to training provided by CHOP/SHS.**

Students who develop symptoms in school should be assessed by the school nurse

Nurse's Role

- If a student tests positive,
 - School nurse will place student in Medical Waiting Room if testing performed elsewhere.
 - School nurse will notify the building administrator and notify the District's COVID-19 Response Team by completing the [Positive Covid-19 Notification Form](#).
 - Letters will be distributed by school administration to school staff and families as per PDPH guidance.
 - The positive student will not be allowed to ride District transportation home; they must be picked up by the parent or guardian.
- Parents/guardians will be given instructions for further care dependent on the results of COVID-19 testing.

Administrator's Role

- Administrator will be responsible for the distribution of the Notification Letters to the impacted cohort.
- Administrator will ensure the proper coding of student absences.



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Return to School Guidelines

Return to school guidelines

- When tested and determined to be **COVID-19 positive**, the student will remain home until all of the following are true:
 - at least 5 days have passed since the onset of symptoms or the positive test date if there were no symptoms prior to testing, AND
 - the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Motrin, etc.), AND
 - symptoms are improving.
- If symptom-free after 5 days of isolation, students and staff may return to school but must wear a high-quality (N95 or KN95) mask for an additional 5 days and must eat in a designated area

Visit the COVID-19 Information Hub for COVID information for students, families and staff

COVID-19 Information Hub



Students, Families & Staff

Welcome to the COVID-19 Information Hub. Families and staff can use this site to find direct links to COVID related information and resources for the School District of Philadelphia.

We continue to work closely with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) to strengthen our health and safety protocols. Please check back often for the most recent information.

[Click here for Staff](#)

COMING SOON: Details about upcoming Health & Safety Town Halls for families. Please check back regularly.

<https://www.philasd.org/coronavirus/>



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Employee Health Services

Employee Health Services COVID Updates

- **DQL days:** COVID leave will continue to be available for vaccinated employees who have not exhausted their previously provided 10 days. Staff who have exhausted their 10 allotted days must use any accrued time from their leave balance while isolating.
- **Positive Result:** Staff must self isolate for 5 days from symptom onset or test date if no symptoms were present. If symptom-free after 5 days of isolation, staff may return to work but must wear a high-quality (N95 or KN95) mask for an additional 5 days (6-10).
- **Mask to Stay :** Any Staff member regardless of vaccination status when identified as a close contact will mask for 10 days.
- **Testing:** Assurance testing for staff ended in May 2022. Staff can continue to utilize the 5 trailers for testing when needed and or pick up at home kits while supplies last at Employee Health Services. Your prescription also covers free COVID tests as well! (Visit [Benefits website](#) for more information.)



If you have a question, please post it using the Q&A feature in Zoom.