



PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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[UPDATED January 14, 2022]

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about how the District supports the Nassau County Department of Health's quarantine efforts. *Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidance from NYS DOH was distributed 1/13/22. We are in the process of reviewing it. If we have further updates, we will inform the community.*

Note: Questions about any of this information may be directed to building administration or Asst. Superintendent, Stephanie Allen.

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

- Isolation is imposed for individuals who are **positive** with COVID-19
- Quarantine is imposed on those who are "close contacts" of a positive case of COVID-19

Who needs to isolate?

- Anyone regardless of vaccination status who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 5 days.

How long do COVID-19 positive individuals need to isolate?

Student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and is <u>asymptomatic</u> (regardless of vaccination status)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for 5 days (with day 0 counted as the day of testing) • Isolation can end after day 5 if able to wear a well-fitting mask* • A mask should be worn at home and around others for days 6-10 • If symptoms develop, isolation resets and guidance for symptomatic individuals should be followed
Student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and is <u>symptomatic</u> (regardless of vaccination status)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for 5 days (with day 0 counted as the day on which symptoms started) • Isolation can end after day 5 if fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, other symptoms have largely resolved, and if able to wear a well-fitting mask* • If above cannot be met on day 5 the individual may return on the first day symptom requirements can be met after day 5 • A mask should be worn at home and around others through day 10

Who is a close contact?

- The Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) has defined contact requiring quarantine as:
 - being 6ft or closer to a positive contact for more than fifteen minutes cumulatively over 24 hours*

* Students in a classroom setting do not need to quarantine if they are masked and at least 3ft. apart

If I am a close contact, do I need to quarantine?

If a:

Student or staff member is <u>unvaccinated</u> and identified as a close contact*** of a positive COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine for 5 days
Student or staff member is <u>vaccinated**</u> or <u>within 90 days of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis</u> and identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quarantine required • Testing highly recommended between days 3-5 after exposure

How long is the quarantine period?

- As of January 10, 2022, the NYSDOH has lessened the quarantine period to 5 days (with day 0 counted as the day of exposure).

What is the process when the school/District receives news of a positive case?

- Upon receipt of the information there is a positive student or staff the building staff informs the Covid Coordinator
- (Dawn Bollerman). The following steps are followed:
 - Fill out the PWUFSD COVID-19 Reporting Form [here](#)
 - The COVID Coordinator will follow-up with you regarding isolation.

What would cause the District or any of its schools to close due to Covid-19?

- Mandated closure by the State.
- Staffing issues that result when the required quarantines/isolations restrict our ability to safely staff in-person learning.

What do I do if I have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive person or if I am diagnosed with COVID-19?

- Immediately follow up with your healthcare provider.
- Contact your school building administration or nurse.

Will the school still do contact tracing, even though the county will not?

Yes, the school will be doing contact tracing.

How will the District help ensure that students returning to school after 5 days are healthy, if testing or medical clearance is not required?

Should a student return to school still displaying symptoms, the building nurse will be notified.

Will “Test-to-Stay” be implemented and if so, how?

PWUFSD is awaiting further guidance on “Test-to-Stay” from NCDOH.

In what circumstances IS testing required? For instance, do students still require a negative test and/or physician’s clearance to return to school? Will there be any revision to those protocols?

Testing is required when a student exhibits a symptom related to COVID-19. A medical clearance from a physician is required for any student athlete (Return to Play) after the 5 day isolation period is over.

How will students who return from 5 day isolation but need to avoid activities in which they cannot mask do things like lunch, chorus, wind instruments, etc. Will those students be required to wear masks outdoors as well?

CDC guidance confirmed by the Nassau County DOH recommends that the above mentioned activities can be done without a mask, as long as the student remains six feet socially distanced when eating, singing, or playing an instrument. Students will not be required to wear masks outdoors.

What is the rationale the District has given for the policy around visitors vs. concerts/extracurricular spectators?

During the day, we have implemented a “No Visitor Policy” measure, temporarily, to protect our students and staff when the building is at capacity. After school, we have less students and staff and feel that social distancing is more possible.