

How to Respond to Positive COVID-19 Tests & Close Contacts in School Settings

What is the definition of a close contact in school settings?

Close Contacts: In schools, any student within 3 feet sustained for 15 minutes or more, or adult within 6 feet sustained for 15 minutes or more, regardless of mask use. Also, anyone between 3 and 6 feet sustained for 15 minutes or more without masks.

Not Close Contacts: Any student more than 3 feet from an infected student, only if both the infected student and exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. Also, anyone more than 6 feet from an infected student or adult.

TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

ISOLATE – For 5 days, regardless of vaccination status

- Report positive case to school nurse/COVID coordinator.
- Provide information for any close contacts from the school environment.
- **With Symptoms --**
 - 1) You can end isolation **5 days** after symptoms first appeared
 - **IF:** 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
 - **IF:** Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving
 - **AND:** You must wear a well-fitting mask for the following 5 days when around others, both at home, and outside-of-the home.
- **Without Symptoms:**
 - Isolate for 5 days since your positive COVID-19 test. You must wear a well-fitting mask for the following 5 days when around others, both at home, and outside-of-the home.

CLOSE CONTACTS

IF YOU:

- Are fully vaccinated and boosted; or
- Have been fully vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna within last 6 months; or
- Have been fully vaccinated with J&J within last 2 months; or
- Are fully vaccinated but not yet eligible for a booster

THEN:

- No quarantine is required
- Wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days around others both at home, and when not at home
- Test on day 5 after your exposure if possible
- If symptoms develop, isolate at home immediately and get a test.

IF YOU:

- Are unvaccinated
- Were fully vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna more than 6 months ago but not boosted; or
- Were fully vaccinated with J&J more than 2 months but not boosted

THEN:

- Stay home (quarantine) for 5 days.
- Wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and outside of home for another 5 days
- Test on day 5 after your exposure if possible
- If symptoms develop, isolate at home immediately and get a test.

Read Updated CDC Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

Social Distancing in Schools

CDC recommends **schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing** to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is **especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies.**



Dear members of the Caesar Rodney community,

Below is new information that we have received from the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) announcing that Delaware is adopting the new CDC guidance around shorter isolation and quarantine times for those infected with COVID-19, and close contacts.

The CDC's new guidance says:

- For those who test positive for COVID-19 – but don't have symptoms – the isolation period can be reduced from 10 days to 5 days as long as the person wears a mask around others (in and out-of-home) for at least 5 additional days. If you have a fever, remain in isolation until the fever resolves.
- For close contacts who are unvaccinated, or more than 6 months out from their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or 2 months out from their single dose of Johnson & Johnson (without a booster), quarantine has been reduced from 10 days to 5 days, followed by mask use for an additional 5 days.
- For close contacts who have received their booster shot, or are less than six months out from being fully vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna or are less than 2 months from their J&J vaccine, no quarantine is needed, but these persons should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure to the positive case.
- For vaccinated close contacts who are not yet eligible for a booster - including students younger than 16 - no quarantine is needed. DPH is reviewing the guidance and evaluating its impact on the Test-to-Stay program.

The Caesar Rodney School District will begin implementing these isolation and quarantine measures when classes resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald
Superintendent