



BYRAM HILLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

January 12, 2022

To the Byram Hills School Community,

Today our assistant principals contacted families of students who are currently in isolation or quarantine to describe the new guidance on when they may return to school. Yesterday, the Westchester County Department of Health adopted the updated New York State Department of Health recommendation (from the CDC) to shorten the duration of isolation and quarantine related to COVID-19. Please understand that we must verify each student's isolation start date and conditions in order to conclude the isolation period. Eligible students will only be permitted back into school after the assistant principals communicate with individual families. I send this information now as I was anticipating additional changes that did not come.

This information is copied directly from the 1/11/22 WCDOH Guidance.

Students, teachers, and staff **who test positive for COVID-19** and never develop symptoms should isolate for at least 5 days. Day 0 is the day of the positive viral test (based on the date of testing) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for the positive test.

- If they continue to have no symptoms, they can end isolation after at least 5 days.
- They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.
- If they develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations above for ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms.

People who **have COVID-19 and have or had symptoms** should isolate for at least 5 days. To calculate the 5-day isolation period, day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after their symptoms developed.

- They can end isolation after 5 full days if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
- They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of their 5-day isolation period. If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.
- If they continue to have fever or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask and contact their healthcare provider with questions.

Students, teachers and staff who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine for at least 5 days (Day 0 through Day 5) after their last close contact unless the individual does Test-to-Stay and tests every morning with the nurse before attending school. Note that unvaccinated individuals who reside with a COVID positive person must quarantine for 5 days (with day 0 as the last date of contact with the isolated family member). If unable to isolate from the COVID positive family member, the quarantine for the unvaccinated individual begins AFTER the 5 day quarantine ends for the COVID positive individual.



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Regarding Lunch - a note from the Superintendent

The new guidance was silent about the lunch period. Currently, students seated six feet or more from an infected individual at lunch are not deemed a contact and do not have to quarantine. Students at Coman Hill, Wampus, and HCC are seated just over 6 feet apart from one another at lunch. The high school students have lunch spread throughout the building.

Since the surge of Omicron, we have tightened the lunch protocols in each building. Our school administrators and lunch monitors will ensure that all students adhere to the distancing while masks are off. If any additional guidance is provided (I have asked for it), I will share that information. We are sensitive about the lunch room and keeping all students safe.

Thank you for your attention to this new guidance. I expect to receive information soon about contact tracing as well - so stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools