

[UPDATED September 14, 2021]

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions about how the District supports the Westchester County Department of Health's contact tracing and quarantine efforts.

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

Who determines whether an individual needs to quarantine?

- The Westchester County Department of Health makes all final quarantine determinations. The District provides the County with information regarding exposure and makes initial quarantine determinations which are confirmed through the Department of Health.

What is the timeframe for contact tracing?

- Westchester's Department of Health has determined the contact tracing "window" (time frame when contacts with the positive case may be required to quarantine) is different for symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals:
 - For symptomatic individuals, anyone in contact with the person 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms.
 - For asymptomatic individuals, anyone in contact with the person 48 hours prior to the testing date.

What type of contact requires quarantine?

- The Westchester Department of Health (WCDOH) 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

Are there any exemptions to quarantine?

Yes**

- **Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine.**
- As of August, **unvaccinated students who are masked do not need to be quarantined** if they are in contact with a positive case. **ONLY unmasked contact will be a cause for quarantine.**
- Individuals who have had Covid-19 within 90 days of exposure are exempt from quarantine.

Any exempted individuals who are in contact with a positive case must monitor for symptoms and are encouraged to obtain a Covid-19 test three to five days after exposure.

**WCDOH retains the right to quarantine individuals when they feel there is a public health need.

DO I NEED TO QUARANTINE?

A quick reference guide

CLOSE CONTACT

VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS MASKED	NO
UNMASKED	NO
UNVACCINATED ADULTS MASKED	YES
UNMASKED	YES
UNVACCINATED STUDENTS MASKED	NO
UNMASKED	YES
INDIVIDUALS WITH COVID IN LAST 90 DAYS MASKED	NO
UNMASKED	NO

Westchester County
Dept. of Health guidelines
as of 09/14/21



Close Contact*: Being 6ft or closer 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 three feet apart

What are the requirements for someone who is positive?

- The New York State Department of Health requires all positive cases to “isolate” for 10 days after the day they test positive (asymptomatic) or the date of onset of symptoms, whichever comes first.
 - Here is the [link](#) to instructions for isolation.

What are the requirements for someone who is quarantined?

- The New York State Department of Health requires an individual in quarantine to avoid contact with others for 10 days from the last contact with a positive person.
- The quarantine lasts through the 10th day and individuals can return to normal life on the 11th day (link to State guidance [here](#)).

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 District Office, and the administration will implement our *Positive Case Protocol*, which includes the following:
 - Interviewing the affected family or staff member to determine symptoms, testing dates, last day in school, and contacts with people that may not be identified by the Infinite Campus tracing program. (Infinite campus can identify all assigned staff and students by schedule.)
 - Contacting the Department of Health to report the case and confirm the contact tracing window, developing a plan for move to remote learning if needed, discussing details about the case in question, and determining if the case should be looked at from a school spread standpoint.

- Ascertaining whether the contact tracing can be completed prior to the next in-person opportunity for instruction.
- Deciding whether the staffing implications of the quarantines allow for continued in-person instruction.
- Implementing communications as follows:
 - Contact all affected staff by phone to provide information on quarantine and answer any questions;
 - Contact all affected families by email and/or phone to provide information on quarantine and answer any questions;
 - Notify all District staff of the case. The District is no longer sending community-wide emails for positive cases.

[Please see this CDC Flowchart for further information.](#)

When is a positive individual allowed to return to school?

A positive individual may return to school when the following criteria are met:

- 10 days have passed from the start of symptoms or the test date (asymptomatic), AND
- Free of fever for 24 hours without medication, AND
- Symptoms have improved.

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

- Mandated closure by the State.
- Short-term closure to complete contact tracing (usually needed for a positive received late in the evening).
- Staffing issues that result when the required quarantines restrict our ability to safely staff in-person learning.
- Evidence of in-school spread. This type of closure would be done in consultation with our School Physician and the WCDOH.

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.