

Reynolds School District
Updated COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine Protocols
January 2022

Our goals:

- Maintain instruction in the in-person setting
- Adjust to keep this feasible
- Mitigate cases to prevent medical system overload
- Maintain good health within our school community
- Maintain staffing to operate efficiently
- Operate our athletics and extracurriculars to the degree possible
 - Sanctioned participation will determine the level of priority
 - Ability of limited staff to sustain programs and activities may also determine continuation
- Continue to learn and adjust to what has been identified through a body of vetted research

Public Health Officials and Clinical Practitioners continue to emphasize that vaccination, masking and social distancing are the best tools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, reduce hospitalizations and mortalities.

The District acknowledges the recent [CDC statements](#) about changes to isolation and quarantine protocols for the general public. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has provided guidance on implementing the protocols. The District reserves the right to modify based on local factors and current conditions. We are waiting for more information from CDC about how any changes should be implemented in more specific settings, including schools.

The District recognizes that to support in-school learning/teaching, and to reduce the strain of quarantine, options need to be offered to students and school staff who have been exposed to COVID-19, while at the same time, doing our best to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community. However, if you are unable to adhere to the updated protocols, you will continue to be required to isolate/quarantine at home for 10 days.

Parents and students are responsible for symptom monitoring. However, if school staff identify a child exhibiting symptoms, they should take appropriate steps to isolate and notify clinical staff.

Modification to seating and social distancing protocols may be implemented, especially in areas that 6' distance cannot be achieved, or masking is not feasible (such as in the cafeteria).

This recommendation is informed by a growing body of national experience that points toward a low number of individuals with direct contact to a COVID-19 positive individual within a school setting who convert to positive cases (1-3%). Based on this information, we will implement the following for K-12 students and staff who have tested positive or have been exposed to COVID-19.

The District will monitor cases for continuation of the options and may revise the approved Health and Safety Plan to reflect current or changing conditions.

Guidelines will apply to all school activities (both curricular and extracurricular), as well as athletics. Failure to adhere to these protocols will result in the remainder of the quarantine period being completed outside of the school setting.

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms have resolved or are resolving after 5 days, after consulting with school nurses, you can return to school on day 6.
- Continue to wear a mask in school and at ALL school activities (curricular, extracurricular, AND athletics) for 5 additional days (days 6-10). If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves. You may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (non-household) (Quarantine)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Wear a mask for 10 days
 - You will be permitted to attend school in-person and participate in all school activities during this time, but a mask **MUST** be worn.
- Test on day 5
 - If positive, refer to “If You Test Positive for COVID-19” protocol.
 - If negative, you are permitted to continue with in-person learning and attend school activities, but you **MUST** continue to wear a mask for the remainder of the 10 days.
- If you develop symptoms, stay home, get tested, and contact the school nurse. The District is able to provide testing upon consent as long as supplies remain available. Over the counter tests will not be accepted.

Household Contact Information

The current body of evidence strongly suggests that transmission of Covid-19 is significantly more likely within household settings. The District has adopted the following parameters, provided by The PADOH Epidemiology Division, to address responding to cases within the same household and the District has adopted these protocols:

Unvaccinated household contacts will be removed from school for a total of 10 days (the first 5 days is an isolation with the case, the second 5 days is a quarantine for the exposure to the case during their isolation). Unvaccinated household contacts may return to school on day 11, but must mask for 5 days upon return.

If household contact is fully vaccinated please follow the new Health Alert Network (HAN) "do not need to quarantine at home; however, they do need to wear a mask around others for 10 days. Additionally, these individuals must be tested on day 5 after exposure, if possible. If this test is positive, the individual should follow the recommendations above for individuals who test positive." Over the counter tests will not be accepted.

“Fully Vaccinated” is defined as: Being boosted OR completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, OR have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days as established by a viral test.

Please note: If you test positive or if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, you will continue to have the option to isolate/quarantine at home for 10 days if you do not wish to adhere to these protocols.

Masking

A masking order will be implemented under the following circumstances:

- 2.5 % of the students/staff confirmed cases (12 cases)
- Links between buildings will also be counted (i.e., student/staff crossover)
 - Evaluate cases every 14 days for continuation, if necessary.

Note: Completed mask exemptions will be accepted.

School Closures

A maximum 14-day suspension of in-person learning will be take place if the following criteria are met:

- 5% of students/staff confirmed cases (approx. 25) in a 14-day window, OR
- Three simultaneous classroom and/or core group outbreaks when:
 - Contact tracing cannot adequately identify close contacts or be completed in a timely manner; AND
 - Other mitigation strategies such as physical distancing or universal masking are not being implemented or adhered to, OR
- The District can no longer adequately operate