



COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR SCHOOLYEAR 2023.24

1. **Vaccines and boosters** are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED for staff and students but are not mandatory at this time.
2. **Report All Positive Cases** (including household members not enrolled at the school). Please report the following as applicable:
 - a. Date that symptoms began.
 - b. Date that the positive test was taken.
 - c. The last day the child was in the school (and whether or not they were in before/after care or afterschool activities).
 - d. Whether the child has a sibling in our school (any program) and, if so, their vaccination/booster status.
 - e. Isolation procedures being followed at home for the positive case (if the positive case is a household member or sibling to a child in our school)
 - f. Whether the individual is at risk of severe illness due to their particular medical condition.

Report via email to-

- i. NY campus: the classroom teacher, adminny@hwis.org and bhicks@hwis.org
 - ii. NJ campus: the classroom teacher, adminnj@hwis.org and owashington@hwis.org
3. **Child with Covid-19 symptoms.** This child will be excluded from class and isolated under adult supervision until their parents or caregiver can pick them up. For everyone’s safety, we ask that pick-up take place as soon as possible. The asymptomatic child can return to school with either-
 - a. **One** negative rapid or PCR test if these tests are conducted at a commercial testing location, hospital, pharmacy, urgent care center or doctor’s office, or
 - b. **Two** negative rapid tests at least 48 hours apart if using at-home tests. The tests should be supplied by the parent and do not need to be reported to the school.
4. **Child with COVID-19.** The procedure to return to school is as follows:

Age/Grade of child	Isolation period	To return-
Preschool (below Kindergarten)	10 days (due to the difficulty of masking consistently) with Day 1 being the day after symptom onset or positive test, whichever comes first OR	-Fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine -No or improving symptoms -No test required for the 10-day quarantine



	7 days with a negative test the morning of Day 6 AND Day 8 (to return on Day 8). Masking is highly recommended during this period.	
Kindergarten and above	5 days with Day 1 being the day after symptom onset or positive test	-Fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine -No or improving symptoms -Must wear mask at all times on days 6-10. To remove mask (for snacks, lunch) during this period the child must be separated from others. Failure to consistently wear a mask will require following the preschool isolation period above. -No test required to return

5. **Quarantine protocol for Close Contacts.** A close contact to a positive case, regardless of age or Covid-19 vaccination status can remain in school as long as they-
- Are asymptomatic (to include being fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine)
 - Test negative on Day 5 (Day 1 is the first day after the last exposure to the positive case), and
 - Wear a mask for 5 days after the last exposure to the positive case (and monitor for symptoms) even if the test was negative.
 - If the close contact is a member of a household with positive COVID-19 cases, then the close contact must wear a mask for 5 days **and** test every morning before school. Depending on the contagiousness of the current variant the school may require this individual to quarantine for a period of time before returning to school.
6. As before, we will report to parents COVID-19 cases in the school by class when they occur.
7. The school reserves the right to reinstate mandatory masking at its discretion to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 or other communicable illnesses (e.g., seasonal flu)
8. Cloth masks are **ONLY** acceptable if they are tightly woven with multiple layers (that is, you can't see light through it when held up to a light source), and have a wire nose strip, otherwise surgical and KN95 masks are preferred. In all cases, the mask must fit snugly around the mouth and chin, be dry and free from visible dirt.
9. There is no remote learning option available to children recovering from any illness including COVID-19. This is to ensure that the sick child is able to focus on their recovery and that the educational experience for the on-site children in that class is optimized.