

## UPDATED POLICY AND PROTOCOLS FOR COVID-19

### Symptomatic Individuals

Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms regardless of vaccination or previous infection status shall be separated away from others until they can be sent home.

If a mask cannot be worn by the symptomatic individual, other staff should be sure to mask. Symptomatic individuals will be sent home. Persons with COVID-19-compatible symptoms will require COVID-19 testing regardless of vaccination status. Rapid tests are acceptable.

### Positive Cases

Individuals regardless of vaccination status who test positive, and individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider must:

- ***Stay home for at least 5 full days*** after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0) AND
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can return to school AND: Wear a mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days (including participation in any extracurricular activities). Time without mask being worn should be kept to a minimum.

### Exposure to Covid

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19 except in certain high risk congregate settings. In school settings, people who were exposed to COVID-19 may continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic. ***CDC recommends that individuals who were exposed to COVID-19 wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure.***

### Masking

NJDOH recommends that schools/ECE require masks in the following circumstances:

- During periods of elevated community levels
  - At a medium or high COVID-19 Community Level, people who are immunocompromised or at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should wear a mask or respirator that provides greater protection.

- During an active outbreak – during an outbreak or a general increase in cases, schools/ECE should consult with their LHD as to whether short-term universal masking or masking in affected classrooms should be required to control the outbreak/increase in cases.
- After returning from isolation – students and staff who return to school after 5 full days of isolation should be required to mask during days 6-10, or until they test negative using two antigen tests collected at least 48 hours apart starting on day 6.
- ***After a COVID-19 exposure*** – exposed individuals must wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days from last exposure, regardless of vaccination status.
- When illness occurs in school/ECE – students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school or care must wear a mask until they leave the premises.

### **Testing**

***NJDOH has discontinued its recommendation for a Test to Stay Program. However, asymptomatic students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should continue to test and must wear a mask for 10 days.***

### **Contact Tracing**

In lieu of individual contact tracing, SVMS will provide classroom notifications when exposures occur. These notifications allow individuals and families to take additional precautions according to their individual needs.