



Revised Covid Policy for 2022-2023 School Year

As you likely notice we use the word “guidance” when we are discussing Covid policies. This is a big shift away from the mandates and requirements we were previously made to enforce as a facility that cares for young children. Overall, national, state, and local public health agencies are moving toward an approach of self-care and responsibility as COVID-19 starts to transition to a disease that is always present. This means that the pandemic will not end with the virus disappearing but that transmission and related severe illness (hospitalization and death) will likely slow even as the virus continues to circulate at a baseline level.

Public health agencies are asking people to monitor their own health and for students and staff to use testing resources regularly or consult with their health care provider if symptomatic. Individuals can then use that information to make decisions and act in ways that are best for them, their family members, colleagues, classmates, and neighbors. To keep yourself informed, you can continue to check the Jefferson County Public Health website:

<https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19> .

Below we are clarifying our guidance, around isolation and quarantines, testing, new JCPH guidelines, and what’s next. We remain firmly committed to the health and well-being of our school community and thank you for your partnership in this extraordinary effort.

Isolation and Quarantines

JCPH recommends families use guidance on their website or their family physician, to support their decisions around returning to learning following a positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen. As a reminder, we are following the most recent isolation and quarantine period, which has been shortened from 10 days to 5 days. Here’s what that means:

- **Isolation** is for those who have tested positive using any diagnostic COVID-19 test for COVID-19 or developed symptoms after a COVID-19 exposure. Those required to isolate must do so for a minimum of 5 days. Day 0 is considered the date of either symptom onset or the date of the positive test collection or exposure.
- **Quarantine** is for **unvaccinated** close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Those required to quarantine must do so for 5 full days. Day 0 is considered the day of the final exposure to a positive case. Quarantined people can return to routine activities on the 6th day if they have stayed symptom free
 - Unvaccinated close contacts in a school setting are defined as being within 3 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the positive case’s infectious period.
 - Vaccinated close contacts in a school setting will not need to quarantine after exposure as long as they remain symptom free.

Positive COVID Test and/or COVID Symptomatic

- Stay home (isolate) for 5 days minimum from symptom onset.
 - Day 0 is considered the date of either symptom onset or the date of the positive test collection or exposure.
- Return to school with a negative Covid test - rapid test results will be accepted.
- No test is required to return after day 10 as long as there is no fever for at least 24 hours without using medication and symptoms have improved.

Exposed to COVID and Unvaccinated

- Stay home (quarantine) for 5 days minimum from the last day of exposure.
- Return to school with a negative Covid test on day 6 - rapid test results will be accepted.
- No test is required to return after day 10 as long as no symptoms have developed.

Exposed to COVID and Vaccinated

- Attend school/work so long as not COVID-19 symptomatic.

JCPH Best Practice Recommendations for High-Risk Individuals in School Settings:

- Be up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Utilize a tight-fitting face mask such as a KN95.
- Strong adherence to personal hygiene, to include frequent hand washing breaks and use of an alcohol based hand sanitizer where appropriate.
- Maximize spacing for social distancing.
- Allow high risk individuals to consume lunch in a location that allows for maximum spacing and air flow.
- Continue to use all best practices and required protocols for COVID-19 mitigation.
- Contact JCPH for an individualized consultation with JCPH's infectious disease epidemiologist team.
- Suggest for caregivers and staff to consult with primary care physicians for individual risk assessments.
- Support individual families and staff who may choose a 10-day isolation or extended quarantine based upon their individual risks and comfort level.
- Remind individuals that these recommendations should be adhered both in and outside of the school setting.



We strongly encourage everyone in our community to consider the most vulnerable among us (those most at risk for serious illness) and act in ways that safeguard their well-being. Please leverage testing resources —through your healthcare provider if you are symptomatic regardless of your vaccination status—to make informed decisions.

Testing

Anyone who thinks they might have COVID-19 should get tested. Students and staff members who are symptom free can go to a local for surveillance testing. We are not offering testing for symptomatic individuals due to the exposure risk that presents to students and staff in our facilities. Please note we do not currently have kits to distribute. Please click link for information on Covid 19 test to treat program: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/getting-covid-19-treatment>