

Revisions to the COVID-19 Isolation Quarantine Guidelines – January 2022

Notice for Students/Families

As you may be aware, Suffolk County Department of Health Services has updated its guidance related to the timeframe for isolation and quarantine relative to COVID-19. ESBOCES is implementing this change effective immediately.

Please note this is interim guidance and subject to change.

ISOLATION: For students who test positive for COVID-19

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must now isolate for **five** days, where day 0 is the day of symptom onset or if asymptomatic, the test date. If asymptomatic at the end of 5 days or if symptoms are resolving (no fever for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication and symptoms improving), the isolation ends. The student **must be able and willing to wear a well-fitting mask** while around others for an additional 5 days.
- Students who are moderately-severely immunocompromised should continue to follow standard (at least ten days) isolation guidance. Students/families who have questions about their individual health status should discuss with their medical provider.
- **Students who are unable to wear a well-fitting mask for 5 days after a 5-day isolation must follow standard (ten days) isolation guidance.**

QUARANTINE: If exposed to COVID-19, students must quarantine as follows, where day 0 is the last date of exposure:

- **If not fully vaccinated,** quarantine for 5 days and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional five days. If symptoms appear, seek testing. In this situation, if the test result is negative, finish the five-day quarantine period. If testing is not done, isolate according to the guidance above (eg., at least five days from symptom onset date).
- As per new guidance (Jan.10) from the New York State Department of Health. **If a student is fully vaccinated,** and identified as a close contact, a student may continue to attend school **regardless of booster status**. Guidance indicates that student must remain quarantined outside of school. Students should wear a **well-fitting mask** while around others for 10 days after the last date of exposure. If symptoms appear, quarantine and seek testing. In this situation, quarantine would end when the test is negative. If testing is not done, isolate according to the guidance above (eg., at last five days from symptom onset date).
- If possible, test at day 5 with either a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, eg, PCR) or antigen (rapid) test

PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE ADJUST to the new guidelines.

If families have student specific questions, please contact the health office in the building where your child attends.

