



January 19, 2022

Dear TPS Community:

As most of you know, the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health updated their COVID-19 guidance for school settings. This new guidance included, but is not limited to, shortening the quarantine period for COVID-19 positive cases and the quarantine period for those in close contact with a positive case. These changes are now being implemented in Tenafly Public Schools.

Highlights include:

- **Mask Mandate:** The uniform mask mandate remains in effect for schools. Existing masking guidelines remain in effect, but new guidelines are now in place for individuals returning to school on days 6-10. These individuals must wear a mask at all times, including outdoors, except for when special accommodations are made for lunch and activities.
- **Daily Symptom Tracker:** Please continue to answer the questions on the daily symptom tracker with honesty and integrity, as it is the first step in symptom identification.
- **Communication with Nurses:** Keep your school nurse up to date on your vaccination and booster status, testing and symptoms, and follow the guidance of the school nurse relative to quarantine and return to school options.
- **Return to School:** If returning to school on day 6-10 after completing a 5-day quarantine, be aware of and follow the associated guidelines as outlined on the TPS website.
- **Booster Impact on Quarantine of Adults:** Through February 11, 2022, adults  $\geq 18$  years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine do not need to quarantine. Beginning February 14, 2022, fully vaccinated individuals  $\geq 18$  years old eligible for but not receiving their booster shot, must quarantine following close contact with someone with COVID-19, unless they have had COVID within the past 90 days.

The changes to our guidelines are based on NJDOH and CDC recommendations and consultation with medical professionals associated with the district who are able to analyze and monitor data specific to Tenafly. It is important to review the specific details that apply to individuals when returning for the final five days outlined in the [Options for Returning to School](#) section on our website, especially as they pertain to lunch and any other activities in which the removal of masks is allowable in schools. Our nurses will provide specific direction to each individual based on the specific conditions. Thank you.

## Summary of Changes

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### A) Positive Tests

- Symptomatic individuals who test positive on any approved test – rapid, home, self, or doctor’s office – are considered positive and must follow the guidelines for positive individuals, including reporting these results to your school.
- If a rapid test is positive, but the individual is asymptomatic and unvaccinated, the individual is still counted as COVID positive but encouraged to take a PCR test. A negative result on a PCR test within 48 hours overrides the previous positive, allowing an earlier return to school date.

NOTE: With the shortened quarantine period, a negative test is no longer required for unvaccinated close contacts to return to school.

### B) Positive for COVID-19

1. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and **are symptomatic or individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who weren’t tested or who are waiting for test results:**
  - a. Stay home and quarantine from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms).
    - If symptom and fever-free for 24 hours quarantine can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
    - If symptoms persist (fever or symptoms have not improved), continue to isolate until symptom and fever-free for 24 hours.
2. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 but **have no symptoms:**
  - a. Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test).
    - If no symptoms develop, quarantine can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
    - If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day quarantine period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms. Follow recommendations above for ending quarantine for individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms.
      - Remember to keep your school informed of status, especially if symptoms develop. The school nurse will provide direction based on the most current status.
3. School Reporting:
  - a. If test is laboratory-confirmed, email test result documentation to school nurse
  - b. If test is rapid/home/self-test that is not laboratory-confirmed positive, email to school nurse a photo that includes: test result, test packaging, and piece of paper with student’s name and date test was taken.

Additionally:

- Individuals returning after day 5 need to continue wearing a well-fitted mask when around others and not able to maintain a distance of 6+ feet through day 10. For those ending quarantine on day 5, this would be during days 6 through 10.
- Any individual who is unable to wear a mask for the duration of the entire school day, except when eating, should not seek to return to school prior to Day 11 ([see Option 2](#)).
- Returning to school on day 6 has additional health and safety requirements that must be adhered to by all individuals returning in-person on days 6-10. See [Options for Returning to School](#).

### C) Close Contacts

Unvaccinated or unboosted (if eligible) individuals must quarantine if they come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact for individuals in a school setting is defined, when in red condition of Regional COVID matrix, as less than 3 feet when individuals are wearing masks, or within 6 feet if not wearing masks for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Tenafly Public Schools will continue to notify unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts of any potential exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals. Those close contacts will be excluded from school and all associated school activities in accordance with the protocols outlined.

Fully vaccinated and boosted (if eligible) individuals or those who had COVID-19 in the last 90 days DO NOT have to quarantine, unless they start showing symptoms. It is important to note that the CDC and NJDOH have updated the requirement for quarantining after close contact for individuals age 18 and older; this change goes into effect at Tenafly Public Schools on February 14, 2022.

If schools are unable to determine the vaccination or booster status (if eligible) of individual students or staff, those individuals will be required to quarantine.

Everyone 5 years and older who receives their primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine is fully vaccinated.

- For children 5 through 17 years of age, a primary series consists of 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- For individuals 18 and older, a primary series consists of:
  - A 2-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or
  - A single-dose COVID-19 vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine)

- Beginning February 14, 2022, Adults  $\geq$  18 years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine but have NOT received a recommended booster shot when eligible must quarantine following close contact with someone with COVID-19. Such staff are not subject to the state's weekly testing mandate, as they satisfy the fully vaccinated status requirement.

Note: Staff un-boosted (and eligible for booster) **do** need to quarantine if identified as a close contact but they are **not** subject to the state's weekly testing mandate.

### Options for Returning to School

The return to school on days 6 through 10 focuses on an in-person opportunity to return to the classroom for both curricular and select extracurricular activities.

#### **Option 1:**

To maintain the health and safety of all students, returning to school on day 6 implies parental/guardian agreement to the guidelines. If a parent/guardian does not support the requirements for return to in-person instruction as outlined, the student will remain on virtual instruction, as approved by the school principal or nurse, and return on day 11 as outlined in Option 2. Virtual instruction **MUST** be approved by the school principal or nurse.

- Accommodations will be made at lunch to ensure a distance of 6ft or more from all other individuals for days 6 through 10. **These accommodations may require the student eat in a supervised location other than the standard eating area of their class or be seated in a supervised section apart from those in their class.**
  - Parents can opt to pick up their student for the entire lunch/recess period on days 6-10. If selecting this option, please notify your school.
  - At Tenafly High School, for days 6-10, the student will not eat in the cafeteria, but will instead eat lunch in a select area as determined by administration (may be a section of the gym or at another identified first-floor location). Students may also elect to leave campus for lunch.
  - Any student choosing to go home for lunch or off-campus is expected to comply with all CDC public health guidance for days 6-10, which includes that all individuals be a minimum of 6ft from other individuals (including household members) when eating.**

When not eating and/or within a range of 6ft from others, during days 6-10, affected individuals are expected to be masked.

- All individuals will continue to wear a well-fitting mask in accordance with district requirements, be  $\geq$  6 feet from other students, and/or be given other accommodations during any class or class activity that allows for mask removal.

- a. This includes but is not limited to physical education and instrumental/vocal music as well as the requirement to wear a mask when outdoors on school property.
  - b. If a mask cannot be safely worn during the performance of these activities, an alternative activity will be given.
  - c. If the student cannot complete an activity that is associated with a graded class, the student will not be penalized for lack of participation or missed activity during days 6-10.
- Returning individuals cannot participate in HSA-sponsored clubs or SACC for days 6-10.

Student athletes affected by COVID and returning on days 6-10 who are members of middle or high school sports teams must wear a mask to participate. For those sports in which a student cannot wear a mask to participate or a distance of 6ft cannot be maintained when unmasked, the student cannot participate in the events, but can sit with the team masked or delay their return to the team until day 11.

### Option 2:

Students have the option of continuing virtual instruction for days 6-10, returning to in-school instruction without the above accommodations on day 11. Virtual instruction must be approved by the school principal or nurse.

## D) Daily Symptom Tracker

All individuals are to continue monitoring symptoms daily and report on the Daily Symptom Tracker. Responses are expected to be honest and accurately reflect their individual health condition as it pertains to the questions.

- The Daily Symptom Tracker question regarding an individual's history of COVID will change to reflect the reduced span of time from 10 days to 5 days.
- Any individual who has received all doses of a given vaccine and is 14 or more days beyond the date of the final dose should report themselves as "Fully-Vaccinated"
  - Fully-vaccinated status does not require a booster shot

## E) Communicating with Your School

The health of our district continues to depend greatly on the cooperation between parents and schools. The guidelines set forth here are detailed and yet they cannot address every individual health situation. Be sure to communicate your specific condition with your school nurse so that they may provide you with guidance specific to the individual's needs.

Please remember to provide your school with a copy of your official vaccination records, including booster, AND any positive COVID test results.