



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Office of the Superintendent

Michael LaSusa

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January 11, 2022

Dear Parent,

The New Jersey Department of Health released new guidelines (attached) for isolation and quarantine due to Covid cases in the school setting. These guidelines take effect immediately.

For any student testing positive for Covid, the isolation period is now FIVE days from the date of symptom onset or the date of the positive test if the student was asymptomatic. A student may return to school on Day SIX **IF** symptoms have resolved or symptoms are markedly improved, and the student has been fever-free for 24 hours. No negative test is required to return to school.

Based on this guidance, the following is a timetable of return for students recently testing positive for Covid.

Date of Symptom Onset or Positive Test if Asymptomatic	Return to School Date (if asymptomatic)
Saturday, January 1 - Thursday, January 6	Wednesday, January 12 (tomorrow)
Friday, January 7	Thursday, January 13
Saturday, January 8	Friday, January 14
Sunday, January 9	Saturday, January 15
Monday, January 10	Tuesday, January 18
Tuesday, January 11	

Students testing positive for Covid who return to school after five days of isolation must continue to wear a well-fitted mask at all times on Days 6 -10 after their illness. During lunch, we expect these students to remove their mask only while eating or drinking, and to put the mask back on whenever not actively eating or drinking.

Additionally, the quarantine period for unvaccinated students exposed to Covid in the school setting has been reduced to FIVE days. Unvaccinated students may end their quarantine on Day SIX and return to school so long as they remain asymptomatic. A negative test is not required for students to return to school.

Based on this guidance, the following is a timetable for return to school for unvaccinated students recently exposed to Covid in the school setting.

Date of Exposure	Return to School Date (if asymptomatic)
Saturday, January 1 - Thursday, January 6	Wednesday, January 12 (tomorrow)
Friday, January 7	Thursday, January 13
Saturday, January 8	Friday, January 14
Sunday, January 9	Saturday, January 15
Monday, January 10	Tuesday, January 18
Tuesday, January 11	

We are continuing to work on a test-to-stay or other model to reduce the above quarantine period further, ideally to zero, but we are not yet at that point.

Taken as a whole, the new guidelines cut in half the amount of time students must be out of school due to either Covid diagnosis or exposure. I believe this is a positive step toward keeping more kids in school. We are in the process of updating our Rules for Return, posted on our website, to reflect these changes.

Thank you for noting the above and our school nurses remain the best point of contact for any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Mike LaSusa