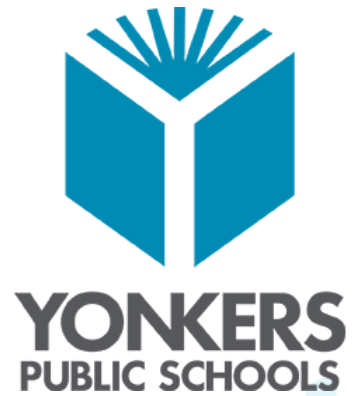


# COVID-19 Reminders & Updates for Families & Students - October 29, 2021

The District strives to keep our parents/guardians and students informed regarding appropriate and mandated mitigation measures required to keep our schools open. The District follows guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Education Department (NYSED) and Department of Health (NYSDOH) as well as the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH). The Board of Education's decisions regarding COVID-19 mitigation are based on what is in the best interest of **ALL children**. These decisions follow the science and the recommendations from our medical health professionals. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the District will continue to encourage eligible students to be vaccinated. In addition, we will continue to provide access to vaccination clinics working collaboratively with the Westchester County Department of Health. Below are a few reminders and updates.



## Mask Wearing



The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to prekindergarten through grade 12 schools regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels. The Yonkers Public Schools has and will continue to adopt this recommendation as the safety and well-being of all students and staff is our number one priority. The District will make reasonable accommodations for students who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.

## Physical Distancing



The Health and Safety Guide published by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) recommends that schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students. When this is not possible, it is important to layer multiple other prevention strategies. It is also highly recommended that a distance of 6 feet be maintained between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated. The District expects that all staff adhere to these physical distancing expectations.



## Quarantining



As per CDC guidance, in the prekindergarten through grade 12 indoor classroom setting, all students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person and were not using a face covering correctly and consistently must quarantine for 10 days. People who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after exposure; the District fully adheres to this quarantining guidance. The District is advocating for this guidance to change to a *Test & Stay* model, which allows students who would have been quarantined to instead stay in school and participate in COVID-19 screening tests for several days.



## Staying Home When Sick



The CDC recommends that:

- Students must stay home if they are showing signs and symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19, and get tested.

The District follows the steps below when a student comes to school with COVID-19 symptoms:

- The school nurse conducts a medical screening to assess symptoms.
- The nurse contacts parents to determine if there are underlying medical conditions.
- The nurse determines if the student needs to be sent home.

If the student is sent home, the District requires that the student returns to school with either:

- A note from a medical doctor clearing the student or,
- Evidence of a negative PCR COVID-19 screening test. The District is advocating the use of a negative rapid COVID-19 screening test.

# #stayhome



# Fever?



## Body Temperature Screening at School



The CDC no longer recommends temperature screenings at school. Instead, families should conduct daily screening and be mindful of indications their children may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 prior to sending children to school. In light of this and because the District has put in place many mitigation strategies, daily body temperature screening will be discontinued in all of our schools effective Monday, November 1, 2021. Random body temperature screening is recommended when students have entered the building.

## Interscholastic Sports



The District had an extremely successful Fall Sport season. No game was forfeited and no team had to be quarantined because of the mitigation measures that were put in place.

Due to our mitigation success, the District is relaxing the vaccine mandate for high-risk sports. The District will strictly adhere to the following protocol:

- **Weekly**, all athletes must show evidence of a negative COVID-19 screening test.
  - » Athletes must participate in the Westchester County weekly in school Saliva COVID-19 screening program. OR
  - » Athletes must present evidence of a negative COVID-19 testing no later than Monday of each week.
  - » Athletes who do not provide this evidence will be excluded from sports until such evidence is submitted.
- **Athletes with COVID-19 symptoms will be excluded** from sports until they present evidence of a negative PCR COVID-19 screening test.
- **Face coverings** are required to be used in all indoor sports.
- **The District determines whether or not spectators** will be permitted to attend games.
- **For indoor sports**, spectator attendance will be limited to 2 spectators per athlete.
- The District may change these protocols based on positivity rate.

As always, if you have questions about the district COVID-19 rules, you may email the district's medical office at [HEALTHSERVICES@YonkersPublicSchools.org](mailto:HEALTHSERVICES@YonkersPublicSchools.org).