



Guidance for Return-to-Work After 5 Days of COVID-19 Isolation

In compliance with the December 24, 2021 **New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Advisory on Shortening Isolation Period for Certain Fully Vaccinated Healthcare Workers and Other Critical Workforce**: [return-to-work-isolation-guidance_12-24-21.pdf \(ny.gov\)](https://www.nysdoh.gov/health/communicable-diseases/covid-19/return-to-work-isolation-guidance-12-24-21.pdf), Yonkers Public Schools employees may be permitted to return to work after day 5 of their isolation period if they meet the following criteria:

1. The individual is listed in the NYSDOH guidance:
 - (9.) School personnel, pre-K through higher education**
 - Teachers, aides, auxiliary staff
 - Support services needed to maintain a safe and effective educational environment, including employed and contracted school bus drivers.
2. The individual is **fully vaccinated** (e.g. completed 1 dose of Janssen or 2 doses of an mRNA vaccine at least 2 weeks before the day they become symptomatic or, if asymptomatic, the day of collection of the first positive specimen).
3. The individual is asymptomatic, or, if they had mild symptoms, when they return to work they must:
 - Not have had a fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication
 - Have resolution of symptoms or, if still with residual symptoms, then all are improving
 - Not have rhinorrhea (runny nose)
 - Have no more than minimal, non-productive cough (i.e., not disruptive to work and does not stop the person from wearing their mask continuously, not coughing up phlegm)
4. The individual is able to consistently and correctly wear a well-fitting face mask, a higher level mask such as a KN95, or a fit-tested N95 respirator while at work. The mask should fit with no air gaps around the edges.
 - face masks should be well-fitting, disposable, non-woven masks.
 - Other face coverings including cloth masks are not allowed except as part of double masking with a disposable mask underneath.
5. Individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are not eligible to return to work under this guidance (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>).
6. Individuals working under this policy must continue to stay at home when not working, take precautions to avoid household transmission, and observe other required elements of isolation until the end of the 10-day period.
7. Testing is not required.
8. Workers participating in this program should be instructed that:
 - They should practice social distancing from coworkers and others at all times except when job duties do not permit such distancing.
 - They should separate themselves from others when eating or drinking.
 - Self-monitor for symptoms and seek guidance from their personal healthcare provider if symptoms recur or worsen.

These guidelines are subject to change pursuant to updates provided by the CDC, NYSDOH and WCDOH.