



2023-2024 School Year COVID-19 Approach to Safety

At this time, and after consultation with our nurse and other districts, we are treating the current COVID-19 variant and its spread as we would most common viral illnesses. We acknowledge that a small fraction of cases can become serious for some, but at this stage, with vaccinations, bivalent boosters, and antiviral therapies available, we are treating the illness differently than we have at earlier stages of the pandemic. We also can no longer dedicate staff time to testing and contact tracing, so we have discontinued contact tracing and are not mandating masking.

We are, however, encouraging the following:

- **Vaccinate:** CDC recommends vaccinations for anyone over 2 years old and a second booster is now available for most over 12-years old.
- **Stay home if you are feeling sick:** Regardless of the symptoms or illness, sick students should stay home. This is a good rule of thumb for any illness.
- **If a student tests positive:**
 - **Wear a mask:** If a student has tested positive, we strongly encourage them to wear a well-fitting N-95 or KN-95 mask for 10 days after the positive test.
 - **Isolation is not required for exposure** The CDC no longer recommends isolation for exposure and it is not required at school.
 - **Isolation is not required for positive test:** You can follow the CDC's recommendation of a 5-day isolation, however, and absences will be excused as they normally are for sickness, but it is not a requirement at this time to stay home. We ask that families monitor symptoms and return to school when students are well. Again, we strongly recommend the wearing of a mask for the 10 days after a positive test.

Updated 8/25/23