



# Middletown City Schools

COVID-19 Operational Updates for SY 2022-2023

Community Town Hall - August 29, 2022

# District Priorities

- ❑ **Health, safety & emotional well-being** of our entire school community
- ❑ Academic excellence
- ❑ Fully **in-person operations** for all school campuses and district offices
- ❑ Ability to **pivot seamlessly** as needed (emergency closure)
- ❑ Make **decisions in the best interest of the school community** given the information, circumstances, and resources we have at the time of decision making
- ❑ Utilize the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and **NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH)** operational guidance as our **mitigation response to COVID-19** for **school year 2022-2023**

# Masks

<b>Do individuals need to wear a mask?</b>	No. Masks are optional for all administrators, educators, staff, scholars, and visitors
<b>Would masks be suggested at any time?</b>	Masks may be suggested/recommended in the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>After exposure</b> to an individual who is diagnosed as COVID-19 positive (PCR test/Medical Diagnosis - not home test).</li><li>● <b>Days 6-10</b> after returning from a 5 day isolation as a result of a COVID-19 positive diagnosis (PCR test/Medical Diagnosis - not home test).</li><li>● If you are <b>experiencing symptoms</b> of COVID-19 and are awaiting an official determination of a positive or negative diagnosis.</li></ul>
<b>Are masks needed on school transportation?</b>	No, masks are optional on school buses and inside campus buildings.
<b>Can individuals choose to wear a mask?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Yes, an individual can choose to wear a well fitting, medical grade, mask at any time given individual risk factors or health concerns.</li><li>● Masks which make it difficult to identify a person are not permitted to be worn in school (examples of restricted masks are: full face/head masks, ski masks, balaclava/gators).</li></ul>

# Quarantine

**Is quarantining still required if you are exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive?**

No, in schools, if a student or staff member is exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive they no longer need to quarantine.

**Are there any recommendations on steps to take following an exposure?**

It is recommended individuals monitor their health and wear a medical grade mask for 10 days following an exposure to a diagnosed case of COVID-19. Diagnosis means from a PCR test or a medical provider determination. This does not mean a home test. Home tests are used for screening purposes only.

*This is a recommendation only, it is not a requirement.* This is pursuant to the CDC guidelines.

**Will the schools be enforcing mask wearing as a result of an exposure to a diagnosed case of COVID-19?**

The school will not be enforcing the mask wearing in cases where there is COVID-19 exposure, we will be operating on a best practice recommendation - it is up to the individual (employee or adult/caregiver if the scholar is under 18) to be responsible for mask wearing.

It's just about being a good member of the school community.

# Isolation

**What happens when an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19** (PCR test or medical diagnosis - not a home test)?

- Any student or staff member who is diagnosed with COVID-19 (PCR test or medical diagnosis) can return to school/work after **5 days of isolation**.
- Upon returning to school/work it is suggested the individual wear a medical grade (well fitting) mask for days 6-10 (another 5 days after diagnosis).

**Should an individual inform the school of a COVID-19 diagnosis** (PCR test or medical diagnosis only)?

- Yes. COVID-19 is considered a communicable infection and information on positivity in the school and community is helpful as we determine potential next steps or needed supports.
- The school would request a copy of the PCR test result/report or medical note documenting the diagnosis.
- We do not need to be notified of a positive home screening test.

**Are scholars offered remote instruction during a period of isolation?**

- No. With the decrease in the period of isolation our belief is the time away from school should be focused on health and well-being. Scholars will have opportunities to make up missed work upon their return to school.
- In circumstances of a prolonged period of isolation or absence from school (medical documentation needed) alternate supports could be put in place.

# Contact Tracing

**Do schools still need to contact trace for positive COVID-19 cases?**

- No, contact tracing is no longer a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Health COVID-19 mitigation response.
- In situations where there is a community spread or high level of COVID-19 positive cases within a school (outbreak) the Department of Health will be consulted to determine purposeful next steps.

**Will families be notified if an individual in their young person's home school is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

No, this would be considered contact tracing. Contact tracing is no longer a part of the COVID-19 mitigation response.

# When to Stay Home

## **When is it suggested an individual stay home or be sent home from school/work?**

- Scholars and staff with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as new onset cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea should be sent home or directed to stay home. *This does not pertain to chronic issues under the care of a medical provider.*
- Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

# Physical Distancing

**Is physical distancing required inside school buildings or on school buses?**

No, physical distancing is no longer required in any building or on any type of school provided transportation.

**Will scholars have access to their lockers?**

Yes, scholars will have access to lockers.



# COVID Testing

**Is Test to Stay (TSS) still a mitigation response?**

No, the TTS program has been discontinued.

**Does the school have COVID-19 home tests available for distribution?**

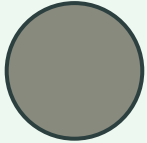
Yes, anyone in need of a COVID-19 home test kit, as a screening test, can call any school to make arrangements for testing kit pickup.



# Supporting Health and Well-Being

- Eat a well-balanced diet
- Get plenty of sleep
- Drink plenty of water
- Stay home if you are not feeling well
- Practice good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Regular physical activity
- Create moments of mindfulness each day

What else are you wondering about in relation to COVID-19?



Open Discussion Time with the Superintendent

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