COVID-19 FAQ (Vaccinated)

DEFINITION:

Fully Vaccinated
Per the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- **2 weeks after** their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- **2 weeks after** a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
- People who received a two-dose vaccine or combination of vaccines authorized by the World Health Organization are also fully vaccinated.

If you don’t meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated and should refer to the Unvaccinated/Partially Vaccinated Policy.

Up to Date

- Means you are fully vaccinated and have received additional doses and booster shots when eligible, including:
  - All series of the primary COVID-19 vaccine, and a third dose if you have a weakened immune system (if eligible)
  - A booster when eligible (5 months after for Pfizer and Moderna and 2 months for J&J)

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Updated as of May 11, 2022
**If you are FULLY VACCINATED against COVID-19...**

**DEFINITIONS**

**Isolation**
Isolation applies to individuals with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. It involves the diagnosed person having no interaction with other members of the household. The person must have their own bathroom and a door to their quarters. Meals are delivered to the room. This is difficult in a private residence and may be impossible if the person in isolation is a young child.

Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of the positive test taken for an asymptomatic person. Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms developed or the test specimen was collected.

If symptoms persist further isolation is required; otherwise, fully vaccinated individuals may attend school after the 5-day isolation period. They must wear a well-fitting mask (KN95 or KF94) for Days 6 - 10 when in the school building and when traveling on a school bus. The school will ensure adequate distancing of people who attend school following isolation (Days 6 - 10) during times when they may typically remove masks indoors, such as at lunch.

**Quarantine**
Quarantine applies to individuals exposed to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. It is a strategy used to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others.

Per NYC DOHMH, the following guidelines apply if you had close contact with someone with COVID-19:

a. Students and staff who are up to date with their vaccines, or had COVID-19 in the last 90 days (as confirmed by a positive viral test) and recovered, do not need to quarantine and may attend school. The recommendation is that these individuals test five days after their last exposure and wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.

b. Exposed fully vaccinated students, teachers, and staff who must quarantine because they are not up to date (i.e., have not received a CDC-recommended booster when eligible) may attend or work at the K-12 school during the quarantine period, but must quarantine outside of school for five
days. They should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days. Continued attendance in person applies only to participation in classroom activities, taking the bus or other transport to and from school, and the activities listed in paragraph (c) below. The recommendation is that these individuals get tested on Days 2 or 3, and again on Day 5, after their exposure.

c. Extracurricular or after-school activities: Individuals who are eligible for a booster but not boosted, and who have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, may participate in school-based extracurricular or after-school activities only if they do not involve students from other schools (e.g., not competitive sports events with other schools). Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days are not subject to these restrictions. Fully vaccinated 5-11-year-old children not eligible for a booster at this time have no further restrictions.

Infectious Period
The infectious period is when someone with COVID-19 may potentially spread the virus to others.

- The start date of the infectious period is two days before the person had their first symptom OR two days before their positive COVID-19 test date if they did not have symptoms.
- The test date is the date when the sample for the test was taken, not the date when the test results were reported to the provider or patient.

Close Contact
In NYC, a close contact can be identified in the following two ways, and the school may choose which type of contact tracing to perform:

1. **Group Level Contact Tracing:** Any individual in the same enclosed space (such as a classroom or school bus) for at least 15 minutes with someone who has COVID-19
2. **Individual Level Contact Tracing:** An individual who has been within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19, for a total of 15 or more minutes over a 24-hour period, regardless of face mask use or the presence of plexiglass or other barriers. This can be from two days before the person with COVID-19’s symptoms began (or if they have no symptoms, two days before they tested positive).

Exception: Per NYSDOH guidance, in the indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting when mask use can be observed, students sitting 3 to 6 feet from a
student with COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they and the student with COVID-19 wore masks correctly and consistently. This exception applies only to students and not to staff. It also does not apply when students are unmasked.

Other people may be considered close contacts in certain situations, such as when physical distancing cannot be consistently monitored or maintained (such as on the school bus, younger children who are unable to remain 6 feet apart and wear masks, and during some sports and recreational activities).

**SYMPTOM/ILLNESS POLICY**

Regardless of your vaccination status ALL students and faculty/staff:

- **Who have one or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 should be excluded from school, isolate, and seek testing.** They may get any type of COVID-19 viral test, molecular test (such as a PCR), provider-based antigen test, or at-home test. If using at-home tests, two negative at-home tests taken at least 24 hours apart are required to end isolation.
  - Fever (100 F)
  - New cough
  - Congestion
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Vomiting or Diarrhea

- **Monitor for the following symptoms. If these symptoms do not resolve within 24 hours, take a test:**
  - Headache
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle aches
  - Abdominal pain/upset stomach

To return to school after having symptoms, ALL students and faculty/staff:

- **Must get tested. This may be any type of COVID-19 viral test, molecular test (such as a PCR), provider-based antigen test, or at-home test. If using at-home tests, two negative at-home tests taken at least 24 hours apart are required to end isolation.**
  - All student results must be sent to studentcovidresults@gatewayschool.org for clearance.
○ All staff results must be sent to covidresults@gatewayschool.org for clearance.
○ Please bring a printed copy of your test result for the Arrivals Team.

- Students, faculty, and staff with a negative test result may return to school when all of the following apply: they have been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, at least 24 hours after any episode of vomiting or diarrhea, when feeling better, and when able to tolerate masking.

**WHAT TO DO IF I TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

- Families, faculty and staff are required to report a COVID-19 positive test result immediately to the School's Nurse, Lucy Khong, RN, BSN, so they can evaluate the matter and determine next steps.
- If identified as COVID-19 positive, the individual must stay home in accordance with the latest quarantine and isolation guidance from the Department of Health. *Please refer to the Isolation Table link below.*
- Isolation policy is as follows:
  ○ If the individual is asymptomatic, they must isolate for 5 days from the date of their first positive COVID-19 test (assuming they do not develop symptoms during such period). They can end isolation after 5 days if they do not have symptoms, including no fever in the past 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, and they are able to wear a well-fitting mask. Otherwise, isolation should continue.
  ○ If the individual is symptomatic, they must isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the date they developed symptoms. They can end isolation after 5 days if they no longer have symptoms, or their symptoms are improving and they have not had a fever in the past 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, and they are able to wear a well-fitting mask. Otherwise, isolation should continue.
  ○ Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, whether asymptomatic or symptomatic, must wear a well-fitting mask around others and follow key prevention measures for 10 days. These include distancing from others when taking off a mask to eat lunch.

- Students, faculty, and staff having tested positive for COVID-19 will not be required to participate in any surveillance or screening testing for the 90-day period following their positive test result.
- Students, faculty, and staff having tested positive for COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine after an exposure for the 90 day period *UNLESS they are*
experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed in the Symptom/Illness Policy section.

Click here for the Isolation Table for Vaccinated or Boosted Individuals.

WHAT TO DO IF I HAVE A COVID-19 EXPOSURE

● Families, faculty, and staff are required to report any known COVID-19 exposure immediately to the School’s Nurse, Lucy Khong, RN, BSN, so they can evaluate the matter and determine next steps. Depending on vaccination status and circumstances of the exposure (was it a household exposure as an example), the affected individual could be cleared to come to the school building or may be directed to quarantine and test.

● Families, faculty, and staff will be notified by the school of any in-school exposures and will be directed as to the proper quarantine and testing measures. Individuals may be contacted by the school’s Contact Tracing Team.

● Please refer to the table included in the Quarantine Policy section below.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM A CLOSE CONTACT (QUARANTINE POLICY)

If you have a known COVID-19 exposure or have been deemed a close contact, you will be directed to follow one of the steps outlined in the table below.

Click here for the Quarantine Table.

Siblings/Household Members of Exposed Students/Staff

Siblings and household members of vaccinated close contacts may continue to attend school UNLESS the primary contact develops ANY symptoms and is required to quarantine and test.

For siblings where one has tested positive, the vaccinated student may only attend school in person if they are able to remain fully separated from the sibling during their isolation period and submit a negative COVID-19 test (this can be a rapid home antigen test). This would require that the positive sibling is in a separate room from the other sibling at all times during this period. If this is not possible, then the sibling must participate in school remotely until the positive sibling is cleared to return to school.
WHAT HAPPENS IF AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE IN SCHOOL?

If an individual experiences COVID-19 related symptoms while in school, they must report to the Nurse’s Office immediately for evaluation. Faculty receive training from the nurse in order to identify pediatric symptoms of COVID-19. Any student exhibiting those symptoms will be taken immediately to the nurse. The symptomatic student and any adult accompanying them to the Nurse’s Office must wear a well-fitting mask over their nose and mouth during this period.

Any employee who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure at school will immediately be sent home with instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing.

If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19 at school, as defined by the CDC, they will be evaluated by the School Nurse, placed in an isolation room, and a parent/guardian will be called to pick them up. Young students and students requiring ongoing nursing care will be accompanied into isolation by a nurse or trained administrator. Older students will be visually monitored by a nurse or administrator while in isolation.

Any student, faculty, or staff sent home with COVID-like-symptoms must have the following to return to school:

- A negative test result. This may be any type of COVID-19 viral test, molecular test (such as a PCR), provider-based antigen test, or at-home test. If using at-home tests, two negative at-home tests taken at least 24 hours apart are required to end isolation.
- At least 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medication
- Symptom improvement and the ability to self-manage any lingering symptoms in school

If a student is not tested for COVID-19, they must stay home and isolate (as if they were positive) for 5 days after the onset of symptoms. The school will treat them as a positive individual and inform those deemed close contacts from the preceding 2 days. They will be required to follow the steps listed above plus wear a well-fitting mask at school through Day 10.
MASK POLICY

- **Mask Optional:** In accordance with guidance from the NYS Health Commissioner and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the school has moved to a mask optional policy.
- The school encourages all community members to be respectful to others whether they choose to wear a mask or not.
- Per NYS and NYC, there are times when masks are still required or recommended even if the school has moved to a mask optional policy. They are listed in bold below:
  - **Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask when:**
    - Returning to school from a 5-day isolation period due to COVID-19, during Days 6 through 10, including when traveling on a school bus
    - Entering the school’s Nurse’s Office
    - They have symptoms of COVID-19 at school
  - **Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly recommended to wear a mask when:**
    - They were exposed to someone with COVID-19, whether the exposure occurred in school or outside of school. The person should wear a mask for 10 days after their last day of exposure.
    - They are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised, and masking is recommended by their healthcare provider
  - **Students, teachers, and staff, regardless of vaccination status, may choose to wear a mask at all times or in specific circumstances, such as when:**
    - Traveling on school buses
    - They feel more comfortable wearing a mask, such as for personal health reasons, because they are not vaccinated, or they live with someone at higher risk for severe COVID-19

- Masks are optional for students and transportation personnel when traveling on school buses. Windows should be open, weather permitting. Students who rode on a bus with a student or bus staff who tests positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine as long as they do not develop symptoms.
- Universal masking requirements may be reinstated based on NYC’s COVID-19 Alert Levels, which are based on current level of community transmission as defined by the CDC and health care capacity.
- Disposable masks, including KN95s and KF94s, are available on site, if needed.
TRAVEL

While we are not monitoring the Gateway community’s travel plans, we do ask that you follow CDC guidance around travel [here](#). We also ask that you consider the impact your travel may have on the larger Gateway community, particularly if you have an unvaccinated or partially vaccinated child.

TESTING AFTER AN EXTENDED BREAK

The school will communicate any return-to-school requirements with families and employees before an extended school break. If the school determines that testing is required following a holiday or other extended school break, all students (except those who are exempt due to having tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of the return) will need to present a negative COVID-19 test to designated members of our Arrivals Team, regardless of the child’s vaccination status, before being cleared to attend school. For students arriving with no test result and not listed as exempt, families will be contacted and directed to pick up their child and take them for testing before returning to school.

Additionally, the school may require Mirimus pooled testing the week following a holiday break. Testing kits will be sent home in your child’s backpack on the designated day and must be returned the following morning for submission to the testing lab.

Acceptable tests:
Guidance may differ based on updated information from the CDC and NYS/NYC Departments of Health, so please refer to the specific communications for each return to the school building.

In most circumstances:
- PCR tests must be taken within 72 hours of the return to the school building after a break.
- Rapid PCR, provider-performed rapid antigens, or at-home rapid antigens must be taken within 24 hours of the return to the school building after a break.