



Glen Ridge Public Schools

A Tradition of Excellence

Glen Ridge School Community

Earlier this week, we received notification from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) announcing the adoption of new quarantine guidelines for schools. The administrative team and the school nurses have spent a significant amount of time sorting through the protocols and their implications for our schools.

The updated recommendations for school settings from the NJ Department of Health can be found here: [NJDOH Revised School Guidance for Isolation-Quarantine.pdf](#). Highlights of the changes are posted below:

Isolation for Positive Test and Symptomatic Individuals

1. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 and are symptomatic or persons with COVID-19 symptoms who weren't tested or who are waiting for test results:

Isolate for FIVE full days (Day 0 is the first day of symptoms).

- If asymptomatic on Day 5, **return to school on Day 6**;
- If symptomatic on Day 5, **remain isolated until symptoms resolve for at least 24 hours**.

2. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms

Isolate for FIVE full days (Day 0 is the day of the positive viral test):

- If asymptomatic on Day 5, **return to school on Day 6**;
- If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with Day 0 being the first day of symptoms.

Additional Precautions for Days 6-10

- Students need to wear a well-fitted mask (indoors and outdoors) through Day 10. Students who cannot wear a mask when around others should stay home and isolate themselves from other people for a full ten days.
- Avoid travel for ten full days.
- Avoid high-risk activities (unable to wear a mask) for ten full days. Students coming off isolation will have lunch separated at least six feet from other students. Lunch may occur in a separate area depending on the number of cases in the building.

Close Contacts of a Positive Case

Do Not Need to Quarantine If:

1. Fully Vaccinated and Asymptomatic -

- a. For individuals 18 years old or older, *defined as completed primary vaccination + booster if eligible.*
 - b. For individuals 5-17 years old, *defined as completed primary vaccination.*
2. Individuals who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days.
 - * Recommended to get tested at least five days after the last close contact

Quarantine If Not Fully Vaccinated

- Quarantine for at least FIVE days (Day 0 through Day 5) after the last close contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of the exposure is considered Day 0.
- If COVID-19 symptoms develop, get tested (PCR) and follow isolation recommendations.
- If asymptomatic through Day 5, can return on Day 6;
-

Additional Precautions for Days 6-10

- Students need to wear a well-fitted mask (indoors and outdoors) through Day 10. Students who cannot wear a mask when around others should continue to quarantine themselves for a full ten days.
- Monitor for symptoms for ten days after last close contact.
- Avoid travel for ten full days.
- Avoid high-risk activities (unable to wear a mask) for ten full days. Students coming off isolation will have lunch separated at least six feet from other students. Lunch may occur in a separate area depending on the number of cases in the building.
- Recommended getting tested at least five days after the last close contact.

The new protocols are now in effect. Students and staff currently in quarantine or isolation should not report to school until their building principal or school nurse notifies them. Building principals will be communicating the lunch protocols.

Additionally, Governor Murphy has extended the school mask mandate. Please be advised that the District intends to require masks on school premises regardless of any State mandate while the region's CALI level is at a High or Very High-risk level.

Please continue to report students who test positive for COVID-19 or who have COVID-like symptoms to your school nurse. Virtual Instruction will be provided for students who are isolated or quarantined.

We appreciate your patience as we begin to implement these new procedures.

Be safe!

Sincerely,

