



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 2, 2022  
To: Local Educational Agencies  
From: Christopher Irving, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field and Support Services

## Updated New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Guidance

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has updated the COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools. The updates can be found on the NJDOH website at [Department of Health | Communicable Disease Service | COVID-19: Information for Schools](#). Below is a summary of changes.

### Key Updates

To support and prioritize uninterrupted, full-time, in-person learning, schools may transition away from a case-investigation response model to a routine disease control model. This model focuses more on responding to clusters of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of ongoing transmission, and less on individual case investigation and contact tracing. In lieu of individual contact tracing, schools may consider providing cohort notifications (classroom, cohort, team) when exposures occur. Individuals and families can then take additional precautions based on individual needs.

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. Therefore, NJDOH is discontinuing its recommendation for a Test to Stay Program. However, asymptomatic students and staff who were exposed to COVID-19 should continue to test and wear a mask for 10 days.

For those individuals who test positive, regardless of vaccination status, and individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider, should stay at home for at least 5 full days after symptom onset or after the positive test. Individuals who have no symptoms, or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free for 24 hours, can return to school and wear a mask for an additional 5 days.

***Schools are strongly encouraged to provide virtual or remote instruction to those students that must stay home due to COVID-19 illness.***

### Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please contact the respective [County Office of Education](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group