



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

January 3, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are getting calls from parents/guardians about the at-home rapid tests, as well as questions regarding the New York State Health Department's rules for quarantining and isolating people that are considered close contacts that are required to quarantine, or that test positive for COVID-19 and are required to isolate for ten days. This can be confusing depending on whether the person is fully vaccinated or not, so this flowchart can help, <http://www.ongov.net/health/documents/ExposureVaxUnvax.pdf>.

Frequently asked Questions we are receiving:

Question: A parent, sibling, or extended family member living in the same house is COVID-19 positive, my school age child is fully vaccinated (two weeks have gone by since her second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccination dose (or two weeks after the one Johnson & Johnson vaccination dose) **but has at least one of the following COVID-19 symptoms**, seen here, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NZqi1uAVIDdP72qZrKOoPb-hO9TZ8PvJ/view?usp=sharing>, does she have to quarantine?

Answer: Yes, if the fully vaccinated person is showing symptoms and is considered a close contact (which is a person that was within 6 feet of a positive person without their mask on for a total of 15 minutes or more in 24 hours **or** is a person that was within 3 feet of a positive person with their mask on for a total of 15 minutes or more in 24 hours) must quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to a positive person. **The Health Department makes that decision, not the school district.**

Question: Can a person that has been deemed a close contact because he or she meets the NYSDOH's Quarantine Guidelines, test out of his/her mandatory quarantine if he or she tests negative on a rapid test or PCR test?

Answer: No, a person that has been deemed a close contact cannot test out of their mandatory quarantine.

Question: What should I do if my children were exposed to a positive person at a holiday party or just visiting relatives and friends but we were never contacted by the Health Department?

Answer: The Health Department is asking that anyone that was exposed to a positive person **self-report** that they were within 6 feet of a positive person without their mask on for a total of 15 minutes or more in 24 hours or within 3 feet of a positive person with their mask on for a total of 15 minutes or more in 24 hours. If you and/or your children are fully vaccinated **AND are experiencing NO COVID-19 symptoms, then you do not need to report that to anyone**, but the NYSDOH wants you to monitor your health and the health of your children, and recommend you take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after the exposure to the positive person. This is also illustrated in the flowchart at the top of the page.

Question: **When can we pick up the at-home rapid tests that the NYS Governor just sent to all NYS school districts?**

Answer: Our District just received the at-home COVID-19 tests this morning, and we are delivering them to each school based on the number of students at each school. Since each box comes with the reagent chemical that is required to administer the tests, for the safety of all students, we are not distributing the tests to students to take home. We are providing parents/guardians with opportunities to pick the tests up at their child's school. **The Principals will be providing their parents/guardians with more details shortly.** It is very important that all parents/guardians understand that the rapid tests are very accurate when used on a person that is showing COVID-19 symptoms, but unfortunately, they are not nearly as accurate when used on people showing no COVID-19 symptoms. Given this fact, we recommend that you save these rapid tests for when your child actually exhibits COVID-19 systems, but it is entirely up to you when you use them.

If you have any other questions, please start by reaching out to your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo/Superintendent