



ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOL COVID UPDATE

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATES



- ❑ On Thursday, January 6, 2022, the Saint Louis Department of Health issued new guidance around isolation and quarantine following a COVID infection/exposure.
- ❑ SLPS began implementing these changes on Thursday upon receipt of the new guidance. To the extent possible, we have provided retroactive guidance.



OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

- ❑ Quarantines are only 5 days (vs 14 or 10) if the person remains symptom-free
- ❑ Continuous household exposures need to remain on quarantine beyond 5 days if household member's symptoms continue, but max time out is 10 days
- ❑ Household exposures require test-to-return provided by the District
- ❑ If symptoms develop during quarantine, maximum time out is 10 days total – opportunity to return sooner if able to test
- ❑ Unvaccinated people and people who are behind on their booster (5 months Moderna/Pfizer and 2 months J&J) must quarantine after a close contact
- ❑ Positive staff/students (vaccination status irrelevant) can return after a 5-day isolation if they are fever-free in the 72 hours leading up to return, without any re-testing or doctor's clearance

UPDATES TO QUARANTINE TIME AFTER A CLOSE CONTACT



- ❑ **Previous Department of Health Protocol: 14-day quarantine (recently reduced to 10 days in December 2021) following close contact, if no symptoms.**
- ❑ **New Guidance: 5-day quarantine following close contact, if no symptoms.**
 - ❑ Benefit to Students: Low school transmission rate did not justify excluding kids from school for 14 days: we lost approximately 45,000 in-person instructional days in the first semester.
 - ❑ Balance of Interests: 5-day quarantine keeps kids home during time when they are most likely to develop symptoms.

UPDATES TO QUARANTINE TIME AFTER A CLOSE CONTACT IF SYMPTOMS DEVELOP



- ❑ **Previous Department of Health Protocol: Continue isolation if symptoms develop during quarantine, try to test, get doctor's note releasing to return to school if unable to test or test positive.**
- ❑ **New Guidance: If symptoms develop during quarantine, test at 5 days after exposure. If positive, isolate an additional 5 days. If unable to secure a test at that time, stay home until fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine.**
 - ❑ **Benefit to Students:** At times, students would be out weeks due to continued symptoms, unclear guidance on how long to isolate, and inability to secure testing or doctor's care.
 - ❑ **Balance of Interests:** Staying home beyond quarantine time and until fever-free assures that the student remains home past their infectious period, but max time out is 10 days.



IF THE CLOSE CONTACT IS A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

- ❑ **Previous Department of Health Protocol: If unable to isolate from the positive household member, quarantine for 24 days from date of household member's test.**
- ❑ **New Guidance: If quarantine is due to household exposure, student must quarantine for five days or until household member's symptoms resolve, whichever is later, but maximum 10 days, and must test to return from quarantine (SLPS is providing these tests to return).**
 - ❑ Benefit to Students: Previous 24-day quarantine was crushing for entire families.
 - ❑ Balance of Interests: Household exposures are the most likely to result in transmission due to continued and prolonged close contact. SLPS's test-to-return ensures students are asymptomatic and tested after at least a 5-day quarantine to ensure they are negative to return.

ISOLATION AFTER A POSITIVE COVID DIAGNOSIS



- ❑ **Previous Department of Health Protocol: Isolate for 10 days from positive test collection date, returning thereafter only with doctor's clearance.**
- ❑ **New Guidance: Ability to return after a 5-day isolation if fever-free for the 72 hours before return without fever-reducing medicine, without any requirement for re-testing or doctor's clearance. If fever continues to day 5, you may still return on day 6 with a negative antigen test result if fever-free for 24 hours. If fever continues or antigen test is positive, complete full 10-day isolation.**
 - ❑ Benefit to Students: Students and staff were largely unable to efficiently secure doctor's clearance, keeping them out longer.
 - ❑ Balance of Interests: Evidence has indicated that first 5 days after positive test collection are the most contagious.
 - ❑ Guidance applies to everyone regardless of vaccination status.



WHO HAS TO QUARANTINE?

- ❑ Students and staff who are fully vaccinated and up-to-date on any eligible boosters do not have to quarantine after a close contact, so long as they remain symptom-free.
- ❑ It is important to note that this new guidance differentiates for people who have not been boosted by the time they are eligible. Specifically, individuals who have not received a timely booster once eligible will have to quarantine following a close contact.

If you received Pfizer	Who Should Get A Booster: - Everyone 12 years and older	When To Get A Booster: - Five months after completing your primary two-dose series	Which Booster Can You Get: - Pfizer or Moderna are preferred in most situations (see CDC)
If you received Moderna	Who Should Get A Booster: - Adults 18 and older	When To Get A Booster: - Five months after completing your primary two-dose series	Which Booster Can You Get: - Pfizer or Moderna are preferred in most situations (see CDC)
If you received J&J	Who Should Get A Booster: - Adults 18 and older	When To Get A Booster: - Two months after receiving your J&J vaccine	Which Booster Can You Get: - Pfizer or Moderna are preferred in most situations (see CDC)

The full text of the CDC's booster recommendations can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html>



STAFF QUARANTINE POLICY

- ❑ Policy 4623 was adopted exactly one year ago. It provides the circumstances by which the District will pay for a staff member to quarantine following a close contact at school.
- ❑ The policy specified that quarantine periods would only be paid if the person was in performance of job-related duties, and had not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- ❑ In August 2021, because all staff members had the opportunity to be vaccinated, the District notified staff that in the event of a close contact at school, they would have to use their own time to quarantine.
- ❑ With the new requirement for employees to quarantine again after a close contact if they have not received a timely booster, the District informed staff today that they would again be paid for quarantines as a result of school-related contact if the person was in performance of their job duties, if that contact occurs on or before January 21, 2022.
- ❑ This provides staff with the opportunity to get caught up on necessary boosters to avoid quarantine time.
- ❑ Getting boosted also provides the greatest protection against contracting the virus, as the Omicron variant has resulted in hundreds of breakthrough cases within SLPS alone.



STAFF/STUDENT CASES

FIRST SEMESTER

Students

472 positive students

*31 of which are reasonably believed to be school related transmission cases

4,567 quarantined students

*3,653 school-related

Staff

145 positive staff

*13 school-related

64 quarantined staff

*35 school-related

SECOND SEMESTER

To date second semester, including reports over break

Students

371 positive students

*6 school-related

864 quarantined students

*419 school-related

Staff

278 positive staff

*16 school-related

24 quarantined staff

*12 school-related

Excluding the reports over break, reports from January 3 – today:

Students

346 positive students

*6 school-related

823 quarantined students

*392 school-related

Staff

171 positive staff

*8 school-related

23 quarantined staff

*12 school-related



QUESTIONS?