

January 12, 2022

District 202 Families,

The CDC updated their [school guidance](#) to shorten the isolation and quarantine periods for schools on Jan. 6th. On January 12th, IDPH and ISBE released the following updated regulations and guidance documents.

- [Executive Order 2022-03](#)
- [Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools: Supporting the Full Return to In-Person Learning for All Students](#)
- [Public Health Interim Guidance for Local Health Departments and Pre-K-12 Schools - COVID-19 Exclusion Protocols](#)
- [Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools - FAQs](#)

District 202 will phase in these new guidelines, rather than implement them all at once because of logistical challenges, and the high number of cases and students with symptoms.

District 202 is prepared to phase in the updated guidance for students as follows:

- Friday, January 14th - Implement new return dates for Close Contacts
- Tuesday, January 18th - Implement new return dates for individuals Positive for COVID-19 and for Individuals with COVID-19 like symptoms

Individuals who may meet the new requirements to return Friday or Monday will receive a targeted Connect-ED message from their building(s) with their specific new return date(s).

Students and staff who are currently excluded may now be eligible for an earlier return to school date. The following is a table with the revised return to school dates for **individuals who are asymptomatic close contacts or positive for COVID-19**. Please refer to the chart below to know when you or your child may be eligible to return to school.

The date the student or staff member <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tested positive,• first had symptoms on the following date or• was in close contact with an individual	The new return to school/work date** is the following:
*Wednesday, 1/12 or sooner	Tuesday, 1/18 (some close contacts will receive a call to return as soon as Friday, 1/14)
Thursday, 1/13	Wednesday, 1/19
Friday, 1/14	Thursday, 1/20
*Any date prior to 1/12/2022 may return on Tuesday 1/18	**The date above is if a person is symptom free, not diagnosed with COVID-19, and able to mask 100% of the time on the five days when they return to school.

Summary of New Exclusion Guidelines

<p>Positive for COVID-19 – <i>Unvaccinated and Vaccinated</i></p>	<p>Exclude for 5 days if asymptomatic.</p> <p>Exclude for a maximum of 10 days until</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● if fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, ● diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and ● other symptoms have improved <p>No competitions or performances until after 10 days</p> <p>Masking required 100% of time, including outside, except when eating for the full 10 days</p> <p>Recommended 6 feet distancing when eating on days 6-10</p>
<p>Close Contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exclude for at least 5 days if asymptomatic. ● Exclude for 10 days if the close contact is due to an individual in the home who is COVID-19 positive. ● If symptoms develop, follow procedure for COVID-19-like Symptoms <p>No competitions or performances until after 10 days</p> <p>Masking required 100% of time, including outside, except when eating for the full 10 days</p> <p>Recommended - 6 feet distancing when eating, if possible.</p>
<p>COVID-19-Like Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● fever (a temperature greater than 100.4 F/38 C), ● cough, ● shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, ● chills, ● fatigue, ● muscle and body aches, ● headache, ● sore throat, ● new loss of taste or smell, ● vomiting, or diarrhea 	<p>Symptomatic - No Close Contact</p> <p>Option 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receive a negative test result within 48 hours of symptom onset (Rapid Antigen or RT-PCR tests accepted. Cannot be a home test) that confirms the symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19 ● Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive. <p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exclude for a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days until <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, ○ diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and ○ other symptoms have improved. <p>Masking required 100% of time, including outside, except when eating for the full 10 days</p> <hr/> <p>Close contact with symptoms: Exclude for a minimum of five days from symptom onset and a maximum of 10 days until</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, ● diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and ● other symptoms have improved. <p>Masking required 100% of time, including outside, except when eating for the full 10 days</p>

Who is a Close Contact? All individuals who are unvaccinated or over 18 unvaccinated, or vaccinated but not boosted who meet the criteria below.

“Close contact” in school setting	Individuals with masks that are less than 3 feet of a confirmed or probable case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period or within 6 feet without masks (ie. Lunch, snack, etc.).
“Close contact” outside of school setting	Individuals who were within 6 feet of a confirmed or probable case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.

Who is NOT a Close Contact?	<p>The following people are not close contacts* who require exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A student who was within 3 to 6 feet in a classroom setting for least 15 minutes with a confirmed or probable student case if both case and contact were consistently masked for the entire exposure period. ● Students and staff aged 18 years and older who have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary doses for some immunocompromised people. ● A student aged 5-17 years who completed the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine. ● An individual on school transportation within 3 to 6 feet if both the confirmed case and the exposed individual were consistently and correctly masked during the entire exposure period and windows were opened (front, middle, and back, or overhead) to allow for good ventilation or HEPA filters were in use during transit. ● An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from date of exposure. ● An individual who is solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors; however, schools may coordinate with their local health department to determine the necessity of exclusion for higher-risk outdoor exposures. <p>These individuals must wear a mask around others for 10 days and may consider testing for COVID-19 on day five, if possible. Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive.</p>
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Tracking Process

- School districts are required to track data for positives, close contacts and COVID-19-like symptoms, therefore, families are still required to complete the contact tracing form.
- Tracking also includes checking in with school health personnel upon return to school to verify resolution of symptoms and any other return criteria have been met. This will be completed via a Google Return from Exclusion form that must be completed for all students excluded due to diagnosis of COVID-19, close contact, or students with COVID-19 like symptoms.

Vaccinated individuals over the age of 18

- Vaccinated individuals over 18 years that are up to date with their vaccinations, including boosters and additional primary shots for immunocompromised, do not need to be excluded if they are in close contact with an individual with COVID-19.
- Individuals who are over 18 that have completed the primary series of the vaccine, but have not received a booster dose when eligible may be considered close contacts.