



Dear CASD Community,

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our schools for in-person instruction on Monday, January 3, 2022. Our primary goal is to have students attending in-person to the greatest extent possible. Health authorities have not issued any recommendations to Chester County schools for a switch to virtual instruction at this time. In fact, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is [recommending](#) in-person instruction when possible. Our ability to maintain in-person instruction could certainly be impacted by staffing challenges which will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. We appreciate your patience.

On December 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced new, shorter quarantine [guidelines](#), moving from 10 to 5 days. This is supported by the Chester County Health Department (CCHD.) CASD will adjust our practices when responding to reported COVID cases. The CCHD has developed a useful tool that summarizes the latest CDC guidance. Please click [here](#) to view it. This will be placed on our website and should be helpful if you have questions about quarantine protocols.

As a reminder, I want to share a summary of our current COVID-19 mitigation practices:

Symptom checking - all families should check their children for symptoms before sending them to school each day. If your child has symptoms, please refrain from sending him/her to school and contact your physician.

Masks - masks are to always be worn indoors except when eating. In the weeks leading up to winter break we saw an increase in students arriving to school without masks and relying on picking up masks from school staff. Please make sure your child comes to school wearing a well-fitting mask. Students should bring at least two masks to school. Also, at this time medical masks are recommended over cloth masks.

Reporting - Continue to report any cases of COVID-19 or your student's need to quarantine due to close contact to your school nurse or principal. [Our COVID-19 dashboard is available for our community.](#) For In-school exposure/close contacts - we will communicate to those families directly impacted, and we'll continue to follow the CCHD protocols. Out-of-school exposure - students must follow the quarantine guidelines from the CCHD to return to school if they are considered a close contact from an exposure outside of school. Please contact the school nurse should you have any questions.

Vaccinations – Vaccines are now widely available. We continue to encourage families to have their children vaccinated. Additionally, anyone who is over the age of 16 and is 6 months out from their last shot is eligible for a booster, which is recommended by physicians.



Testing – CASD will continue to take part in testing students and staff who become symptomatic during the school day. Unfortunately, we don't have enough tests available for students who may become symptomatic outside of the school day. We ask that you contact your physician and acquire a test over the counter or at a testing site, and please do not send a child to school if they are symptomatic. Please be sure you have completed the forms required for CASD nurses to administer a COVID test at school. Please contact your school nurse as a follow-up.

We know our students learn best when in school and we also know that, up to this point, our protocols and practices have prevented spread of the virus in our schools. We will review our Health and Safety Plan this month and update you with any changes.

Thank you for your support as we do our best to keep students safely learning in our schools.

Sincerely,

Tomás Hanna, Superintendent



Estimadas familias de CASD:

Esperamos darles la bienvenida a todos a nuestras escuelas para recibir instrucción en persona el lunes 3 de enero de 2022. Nuestro objetivo principal es que los estudiantes asistan en persona en la mayor medida posible. Las autoridades sanitarias han no emitido recomendaciones a las escuelas del condado de Chester para que se cambiaran a la instrucción virtual en este momento. De hecho, el Children's Hospital of Philadelphia es recomendando instrucción en persona cuando sea posible. Nuestra capacidad para mantener la instrucción en persona ciertamente podría verse afectada por los desafíos de personal que se abordarán caso por caso. Nosotros apreciamos su paciencia.

El 27 de diciembre de 2021, los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades anunciaron una nueva cuarentena más corta pautas, pasando de 10 a 5 días. Esto es apoyado por el Departamento de Salud del Condado de Chester (CCHD). CASD ajustará nuestras prácticas al responder a los casos de COVID reportados. La CCHD ha desarrollado una herramienta útil que resume las últimas orientaciones de los CDC. Por favor haz clic aquí para verlo. Esto se colocará en nuestro sitio web y debería ser útil si tiene preguntas sobre los protocolos de cuarentena.

Como recordatorio, quiero compartir un resumen de nuestras prácticas actuales de mitigación de COVID-19:

Comprobación de síntomas - Todas las familias deben comprobar si sus hijos presentan síntomas antes de enviarlos a la escuela todos los días. Si su hijo tiene síntomas, absténgase de enviarlo a la escuela y comuníquese con su médico.

Mascaras - Las máscaras deben usarse siempre en interiores, excepto para comer. En las semanas previas a las vacaciones de invierno, vimos un aumento en el número de estudiantes que llegaban a la escuela sin máscaras y dependían de recoger las máscaras del personal de la escuela. Asegúrese de que su hijo venga a la escuela con una máscara que le quede bien. Los estudiantes deben traer al menos dos máscaras a la escuela. Además, en este momento se recomiendan máscaras médicas sobre máscaras de tela.

Informando a la escuela - Continúe informando cualquier caso de COVID-19 o la necesidad de su estudiante de ponerse en cuarentena debido al contacto cercano con la enfermera o el director de su escuela. Nuestro panel COVID-19 está disponible para nuestra comunidad. Para **En s** exposición escolar / contactos cercanos: nos comunicaremos con las familias directamente afectadas y continuaremos siguiendo los protocolos de la CCHD. **Exposición fuera de la escuela** - los estudiantes deben seguir las pautas de cuarentena de CCHD para regresar a la escuela si se les considera un contacto cercano debido a una exposición fuera de la escuela. Comuníquese con la enfermera de la escuela si tiene alguna pregunta.



Vacunas - Las vacunas están ahora ampliamente disponibles. Seguimos animando a las familias a que vacunen a sus hijos. Además, cualquier persona que sea mayor de 16 años y esté a 6 meses de su última inyección es elegible para un refuerzo, que es recomendado por los médicos.

Pruebas - CASD seguirá participando en las pruebas a los estudiantes y al personal que presenten síntomas durante el día escolar. Desafortunadamente, no tenemos suficientes exámenes disponibles para los estudiantes que pueden presentar síntomas fuera del horario escolar. Le pedimos que se comunique con su médico y adquiera una prueba de venta libre o en un sitio de prueba, y no envíe a un niño a la escuela si tiene síntomas. Por favor asegúrese de haber completado los formularios requeridos para que las enfermeras de CASD administren una prueba de COVID en la escuela. Comuníquese con la enfermera de su escuela como seguimiento.

Sabemos que nuestros estudiantes aprenden mejor cuando están en la escuela y también sabemos que, hasta este momento, nuestros protocolos y prácticas han evitado la propagación del virus en nuestras escuelas. Revisaremos nuestro Plan de salud y seguridad este mes y le informaremos sobre cualquier cambio.

Gracias por su apoyo mientras hacemos nuestro mejor esfuerzo para mantener a los estudiantes aprendiendo de manera segura en nuestras escuelas.

Atentamente,

Tomás Hanna
Superintendente



COVID-19 Updated Quarantine & Isolation Tool

December 30, 2021

Purpose: On December 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its [quarantine and isolation guidance for COVID-19](#). This document serves as a tool for schools to implement the updated guidance.

Return-to-School Tool:

Scenario	Who	Return-to-School Guidance
#1 Negative Screening	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
#2 COVID-19 Like Symptoms	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get tested for COVID-19 and do not attend school until test results are received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Negative test result</u>: Return to school based on clinical criteria for alternative diagnosis. If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved. ○ <u>Positive test result</u>: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3. <p><i>If not tested, assume individual is positive, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</i></p>
#3 Tested Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do <u>not</u> attend school and isolate at home for 5 days. • If no symptoms, or symptoms are resolving, after 5 days, isolation is complete and individual can return to school. • Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school's current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for 5 additional days. <p><i>If individual has a fever, continue to stay home until 24 hours after fever resolves.</i></p>



COVID-19 Updated Quarantine & Isolation Tool

December 30, 2021

Scenario	Who	Return-to-School Guidance
<p>#4 Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 & Fully Vaccinated/Boosted (Close Contact/Quarantine)</p>	<p>If individual: Has been boosted OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual can attend school; no quarantine is required. • Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school’s current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for 10 days. • Test on day 5, if possible; if individual does not have symptoms while waiting for test results, they are permitted to attend school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Negative test result</u>: Continue to attend school and wear a mask until 10 days is complete. ○ <u>Positive test result</u>: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3. <p><i>If individual develops symptoms during quarantine or upon return to school, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #2.</i></p>
<p>#5 Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 & NOT Boosted or Vaccinated (Close Contact/Quarantine)</p>	<p>If individual: Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are <u>not</u> vaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do <u>not</u> attend school and quarantine at home for 5 days. • If no symptoms after 5 days, quarantine is complete and individual can return to school. • Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school’s current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for an additional 5 days. • Test on day 5, if possible; if individual does not have symptoms while waiting for test results, they are permitted to attend school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Negative test result</u>: Attend school and wear a mask for an additional 5 days.



Chester County Health Department

COVID-19 Updated Quarantine & Isolation Tool

December 30, 2021

Scenario	Who	Return-to-School Guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <u>Positive test result</u>: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3. <p><i>If individual develops symptoms during quarantine or upon return to school, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #2.</i></p>

Notes:

- There is no change to what constitutes "day 1" or how days of quarantine/isolation are counted.
- There is no change to the 48 hour exposure period used to identify individuals exposed/close contacts.