

Dear parents and guardians,

We are pleased to share that the isolation and quarantine period for students and staff members sick with COVID-19 or considered a close contact has been **reduced to five days**.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) announced that the agencies have adopted CDC guidance for P-12 schools that halves the isolation and quarantine period. The Centers for Disease Control updated its [guidance](#) for P-12 schools on January 6.

Here is a summary of the new guidance:

- ❖ Fully vaccinated students and staff who are considered a close contact, no longer have to quarantine. They should wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days in all settings, including home.
- ❖ Unvaccinated students and staff who are considered a close contact and **have no symptoms** are advised to quarantine for 5 days or participate in Test to Stay (TTS) (Individuals will come to work/school and commit to being tested on Day 1, 3, 5 and 7. If a negative test is obtained, they will be allowed to remain at work/school). **Berwyn North will use the Test to Stay option in lieu of quarantine.**
- ❖ If an unvaccinated student or staff member is a close contact and refuses to be tested for COVID-19, they will be required to quarantine for 5 days.
- ❖ Fully vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff who are considered a close contact and **have symptoms** will quarantine for 5 days from the onset of symptoms.
- ❖ Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will isolate for 5 days from the onset of symptoms or from the date of a positive test result.
- ❖ Isolation should end after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your symptoms are improving. If individuals have a fever after the 5-day isolation period has ended, they should continue to isolate.

As a result, effective immediately, Berwyn North School District 98 will implement the updated guidance. As soon as possible, we will contact staff, students and families who are currently impacted by a quarantine and isolation with a revised return-to-school date.

This announcement **does not** change the state of Illinois' mask requirement for anyone inside school buildings. The Governor's indoor mask mandate for school is still in effect until further notice.

Staff and students who are currently impacted by a quarantine now have a revised return-to-school date. Please see the chart below to know when to send your child back to school.

<i>If a student or staff member tested positive or first had symptoms on the following date:</i>	<i>The new return-to-school/work date is the following:</i>
Monday, 1/10	Tuesday, 1/18 (No School Monday, January 17th)
Tuesday, 1/11	Tuesday, 1/18
Wednesday, 1/12	Tuesday, 1/18
Thursday, 1/13	Wednesday, 1/19
Friday, 1/14	Thursday, 1/20
	<b>**The date above is if a person is fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.</b>

In addition, I want to pass along information from IDPH and CDC related to quarantine and recommended isolation periods. Below is a summary of information.

**What is quarantine?**

Quarantine means staying home for at least 5 days after exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. This is because someone can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 but may not show symptoms. Even though someone may not show symptoms, they can still spread the virus.

Quarantine is different from isolation. Isolation is used by someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, or tests positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms. Isolation helps prevent transmission of the virus by separating people infected with the virus from those who are not infected.

**Summary of the CDC Recommended Quarantine Period for Close Contacts to Someone with COVID:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.</li> <li>• Ages 5 - 17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.</li> <li>• Confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine not required</li> <li>• Wear a mask around others for 10 days</li> <li>• Test on Day 5, if possible</li> <li>• If a person develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test is obtained.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 18 or older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine doses, but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.</li> <li>• Received the single-dose Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccine over 2 months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot.</li> <li>• Unvaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berwyn North will implement Test to Stay. Individuals will come to work/school and commit to being tested on Day 1, 3, 5 and 7. If a negative test is obtained, they will be allowed to remain at work/school.</li> <li>• If a person develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test result is obtained.</li> </ul>

\*\*Children who have received the primary vaccination series and are not eligible for booster doses after 5 months for Pfizer, 6 months for Moderna, or 2 months for Johnson and Johnson should not be excluded from school after close contact unless they develop symptoms and test positive for COVID-19. If masks need to be removed, ensure 6 feet of physical distancing until 10 days after exposure.

When calling the school to report your student's absence, please inform the staff if they have tested positive for COVID. Once we are aware, we will make every attempt to provide Quarantine instruction.

**International Travel**

If you are fully vaccinated and returning from international travel, get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel & self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms. You must remain home if waiting on test results.

If you are NOT fully vaccinated, get tested with a viral test (Either PCR or antigen) 3-5 days after travel AND self-quarantine at home for a full 7 days after travel.

- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

## **Domestic Travel**

After travel, unvaccinated individuals returning from a **high-risk (orange)** state should:

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days.
- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
- If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 10 days, whether you get tested or not.

After travel, vaccinated persons who have traveled domestically are not required to quarantine if they are:

- asymptomatic; and
- fully vaccinated

Thank you for your continued support of our students and teachers. It's been an incredibly difficult year, but we will continue to push forward together.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Principal of your child's school.

Sincerely,

Michelle Smith, Superintendent  
Berwyn North School District 98