



District 90 COVID-19 Protocols for Exclusion and Masking *Revised 5/25/22*

District 90 schools are implementing the following COVID-19 protocols for exclusion and masking pursuant to its local authority and responsibility to protect the health and safety of individuals within the school community and in consideration of state and local health guidance. As that guidance is amended, District 90 may continue to adjust these protocols.

Individuals with Positive COVID-19 Test Result:

- Regardless of vaccination status, students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from a positive viral test. If there are no symptoms or the symptoms have resolved after 5 days, they are released from isolation to return to school on the 6th day. **Students and staff who continue to have symptoms past the 5 days should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have resolved before returning to school.** Individuals are strongly encouraged to follow any additional directions from medical professionals.
- Students or staff who test positive must continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school. If this is not possible, the individual must isolate for a total of 10 days. If masks need to be removed (e.g., during lunch), at least 6 feet of physical distance will be maintained until 10 days after onset of symptoms or positive result. District 90 schools will implement protocols to ensure that student seating arrangements for lunch/snack are consistent with the IDPH/ISBE “adequate distance” guidance for students returning from isolation/quarantine after 5 days and that individuals continue to wear masks consistently upon return.

Individuals with COVID-19-Like Symptoms

- Any individuals with COVID-19-like symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, will be excluded from school for a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have resolved **OR**, until receiving a negative PCR test result or negative antigen test result that confirms the symptoms are not attributed to COVID-19. Home-administered or medically-administered antigen test results will be accepted. If individuals are unable to procure testing options independently, they are encouraged to contact the school nurse about scheduling a school-based BinaxNOW test administration.

Implications From Having Close Contact

- Individuals aged 5 or older who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines (with at least two weeks post second dose) and boosters, if appropriate (based on time from second-dose vaccination date), as well as individuals who have had a confirmed COVID-19 case within the last 90 days do not need to be excluded from school if they are in close contact with a diagnosed case. They

should wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on days 3-5, if possible. If symptoms develop, they should isolate until they receive a negative test result (see above).

- Individuals who have completed the primary series of recommended vaccine doses or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and qualify for but have not received a booster shot, as well as unvaccinated individuals, are recommended to stay home and wear a mask around others for 5 days after being in close contact and test on day 5, if possible. If symptoms develop, they should isolate until they receive a negative test result.
- Children who have received the primary vaccination series but are not eligible for booster doses will not be excluded from school after being in close contact with a symptomatic case unless symptoms develop and they test positive for COVID-19.
- District 90 does not require vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals who have been in close contact with a diagnosed case to be excluded from school.

Examples of Individuals Not Identified as Having Close Contact

- A student who was within 3 to 6 feet in a classroom setting for at 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 who have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary doses for qualified immunocompromised individuals
- An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from date of exposure
- An individual who is only exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors unless a higher-risk exposure

These individuals (above) are recommended to wear a mask around others for 10 days and may consider testing for COVID-19 on day 5, if possible. Any individual testing positive will be excluded from school and should follow guidance for persons testing positive.

Returning from Exclusion from School

Since individual health circumstances will vary about readiness to return to school, staff and students who are impacted by exclusion from school should contact the school nurse to finalize plans to return to school. The IDPH and ISBE recommend that students return to school after 5 days **if symptoms have resolved and other conditions are met as described above**, unless clinically recommended to continue exclusion by their medical provider.

Outbreak Testing – Classrooms or Small Group

District 90 is implementing classroom or small group outbreak testing in accordance with directions from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) when a confirmed outbreak has occurred. Outbreak testing consists of the collection of a saliva sample at school twice a week for a testing cycle of 14 days and is conducted onsite.

Please note the following considerations indicated by CCDPH related to outbreak testing:

- Students and staff who have completed their primary series and/or booster doses (vaccinations “up-to-date”) and are associated with the identified outbreak classroom or small group are recommended to

participate in the outbreak testing regimen to assist in curtailing ongoing transmission. However, individuals with vaccinations “up-to-date” are not required to participate in the outbreak testing or be excluded from school.

- Outbreak testing for individuals who have recovered from a PCR-confirmed COVID-19 infection is not recommended if less than 90 days have passed from symptom onset or previous positive test, but testing should resume once the 90 days have passed. Families are requested to provide confirmation of past positive PCR test results to the school nurse for outbreak testing exemption, if applicable.
- Consent for student participation in outbreak testing or school exclusion is strongly recommended for students who are unvaccinated or have not completed their primary series and/or booster doses and are part of the identified outbreak testing classroom or small group.
- Participation in outbreak testing is required for personnel who are unvaccinated or have not completed their primary series and/or booster doses and are part of the identified outbreak testing classroom or small group.

Face Masks

Wearing face masks will be optional indoors and outdoors at all D90 school facilities for students, staff and school visitors, unless health conditions require reinstatement (please see District 90 “COVID-19 Mask Tiers” document on district website). Schools will provide face masks for students and staff as needed. However, individuals choosing to mask will be permitted to supply a face mask of their own choosing. Students or staff who test positive must continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school (please see “Individuals with Positive COVID-19 Test Result” above). Additional details include:

- Wearing face masks is optional for individuals on school transportation.
- Please note that individuals participating in interscholastic programs/events will be required to adhere to the host school’s mask/mitigation requirements to participate in the interscholastic event.
- Individuals participating in school sponsored field trips may be required to wear face masks if mandated by the venue. Advance notice will be provided to families about this if known beforehand.
- The nurse’s office at each school remains a “mask required” location.
- Individuals are recommended to wear face masks in elementary classrooms that have been placed in outbreak status by the CCDPH for up to 14 days after the most recent class-related diagnosis.
- School or grade-level outbreaks may necessitate mask reinstatement to contain transmission if directed by the CCDPH as a condition to sustain in-person instruction.
- District 90 is committed to provide a caring, responsive and safe environment free from harassment, bullying, teasing and/or exclusion. This commitment includes and extends to individuals’ decisions about the choice to wear a face mask or covering.

District 90 will strongly encourage masking again in its school buildings if the community is designated at a “High Community Level” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, District 90 will return to a masking requirement if the state or local government, or local health department (CCDPH), impose new masking mandates.

Additional Considerations

Please note that all other COVID-19 protocols currently being implemented in District 90 that are not addressed in this communication remain unchanged at this time. These include mitigation protocols addressing the following :

- promoting vaccinations for all qualifying individuals
- requiring COVID-19 testing or school exclusion for symptomatic individuals
- providing face masks for individuals free of charge, as they are needed
- implementing physical distancing, as appropriate
- continuing outbreak testing protocols
- adhering to ventilation and air circulation recommendations
- promoting handwashing regimens
- maintaining school cleaning and disinfection efforts

If you have questions about this communication or implications for you, your child, or your family, please contact the nurse at your child's school. Questions pertaining to COVID-19 procedures or safety mitigation protocols can also be directed to the D90 Infection Control Officer, Sam Martini at martinis@district90.org