



January 12, 2022

Dear BCSD Community,

I am writing to provide some important updated information regarding procedures, protocols and guidelines, per the ever-changing direction of NYSDOH and the WCDOH.

NYSDOH released this [guidance](#) to all school districts in New York on 1/10/2022. Please note important information and significant changes regarding the number of days exposed students and staff would be required to quarantine or isolate. Superintendents in Westchester County were anxiously awaiting further direction from the Westchester County Department of Health and it arrived late yesterday afternoon. While there are a number of important issues that are still unresolved and for which we are awaiting further guidance, there is a significant change that we will implement in Bedford immediately.

Per the Westchester County Department of Health (1/11/2022):

***Students, teachers, and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and never develop symptoms should isolate for at least 5 days.*** Day 0 is the day of the positive viral test (based on the date of testing) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for the positive test.

- *If they continue to have no symptoms, they can end isolation after at least 5 days*
- *They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.*
- *If they develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations above for ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms.*

***People who have COVID-19 and have or had symptoms should isolate for at least 5 days.*** To calculate the 5-day isolation period, day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after their symptoms developed.

- ***They can end isolation after 5 full days if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved*** (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation)
- *They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of their 5-day isolation period. If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.*
- *If they continue to have fever or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and their other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask and **contact their healthcare provider with questions.***

Per New York State Department of Health (1/10/2022):

- *All fully vaccinated individuals (students, teachers, and staff), who have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 may continue to attend or work at school, regardless of booster status.*
- *Students, teachers, and staff who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last close contact. These individuals could be eligible for Test to Stay programs that would allow them to stay in the school setting during the quarantine period.*

This is very encouraging and welcome news. While we await further guidance from WCDOH on issues such as isolation for those participating in extracurricular activities, and, per the Governor's remarks yesterday, we are awaiting further direction on contact tracing, the guidance we received late yesterday is that **asymptomatic students and staff will be allowed to return to school after 5 days of isolation or quarantine.**

**If your child is currently isolated or quarantined, you will be contacted by your school today to discuss an early return to school.**

### **BCSD Vaccination Clinic**

Finally, approximately 400 community members were able to take advantage of the vaccination clinic we hosted at FLHS on Monday. Those requiring a second dose will return on Monday, January 31, 2022. First doses will also be available; however, those receiving their first dose at FLHS on January 31 will have to receive their second dose three weeks later in Ossining. Additionally, there are many openings now available for those eligible and who would like to receive a booster shot on January 31, 2022. You are able to register for the January 31, 2022 vaccination clinic [here](#).

I anticipate further guidance from NYSDOH and WCDOH and will continue to share updates as information becomes available.

BCSD Strong!

Joel Adelberg  
Superintendent of Schools