



# EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

100 Uhland Street

East Rutherford, NJ 07073

Phone: (201) 804-3100 ♦ Fax: (201) 933-1845

[www.erboe.net](http://www.erboe.net)

January 6, 2022

Good afternoon East Rutherford School Community,

Throughout this entire school year, District administration has continued to listen to a number of stakeholders regarding our operations during these challenging times. One of the greatest pieces of feedback we have gotten from the community is related to getting their children back into the classroom. Additionally, when students are unable to attend school due to COVID circumstances, there is an increasing frustration when students are forced to participate in an asynchronous model. Therefore, it has been agreed upon that beginning immediately, any student required to isolate, quarantine, or be excluded from school due to any Covid-related issue will be able to log onto Zoom for live, virtual instruction.

In regards to quarantine and isolation guidance, as of January 6, 2022, the East Rutherford School District will follow all [recommendations as per the NJDOH](#). If there are any instances **where guidance is not provided** by the NJDOH, the District will fall back on recommendations from the [CDC](#). The District will await guidance from the NJDOH on updates to current recommendations, regardless of updates shared out by the CDC. As of December 30, 2021, this [linked guidance was provided by the NJDOH](#) in relation to our advancement to the Very High activity level.

## Health and Safety Updates - January 6, 2022

### Virtual Learning Circumstances

- Any student required to quarantine, isolate, or be excluded from school due to an exposure or exhibiting COVID-compatible symptoms, whether in school or outside of school, will receive access to synchronous virtual/remote learning through Zoom (when staffing allows - substitute teachers **will not** facilitate live Zoom lessons) and appropriate platforms. All students will be required to sign in to their Zoom classes in order to receive credit for attendance. If a student does not log in to their class(es), they will be marked Absent.
  - **NOTE:** This **includes** any student who was previously assigned asynchronous learning due to COVID-related absences. If your student is currently on asynchronous instruction, they are expected to begin virtual learning on Zoom as of Friday, January 7, 2022. Please contact your child's teacher(s) for the necessary Zoom links.
- When reporting symptoms and exposures to the School Nurse/Building Principal, we will need to be provided with the date of exposure, as well as any dates on which you were tested. When testing occurs, we will need to be provided with copies of the PCR testing results.
- If a student/family elects to travel and decides to **quarantine** as recommended, that student will receive access to asynchronous learning through appropriate platforms (**no live Zoom access**).

Students will be able to access content through Google Classroom and other District platforms with no direct instruction. Students are required to email their teacher(s) to check in throughout the day for attendance credit. If a student does not connect with their teacher(s) during expected class times, they will be marked Absent. No instruction is provided during times where students are traveling.

## **Quarantine and Isolation**

In regards to quarantine and isolation guidance, as of January 6, 2022, the East Rutherford School District will follow all [recommendations as per the NJDOH](#). If there are any instances **where guidance is not provided** by the NJDOH, the District will fall back on recommendations from the [CDC](#). The District will await guidance from the NJDOH on recommendations, regardless of updates shared out by the CDC. As of December 30, 2021, this [linked guidance was provided by the NJDOH](#) in relation to our advancement to the Very High activity level.

School exclusion duration for close contacts: CDC released guidance with options to shorten the [quarantine](#) time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period, it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in [CDC's Overview of COVID19 Quarantine for K-12 Schools](#).

With that being said, please review the following information regarding quarantines and isolations:

### *COVID-Compatible Symptoms*

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms, or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

### *Who needs to isolate?*

- Individuals who test positive **or** individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who have not been tested and **do not have an alternative diagnosis** from their healthcare provider should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19, but who are **asymptomatic** should stay home for 10 days from the **positive test result**.

*Who needs to quarantine?*

- People who are **not** fully vaccinated and are determined to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19 need to quarantine.
- Exposed close contacts who **have** COVID-19 compatible symptoms that meet the exclusion criteria and are not fully vaccinated and will quarantine for 14 days.
- Exposed close contacts who have **no** COVID-19 symptoms and are not fully vaccinated:
  - Are recommended to test immediately
  - If not tested or negative, they should quarantine at home according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Table after exposure and should be tested 5-7 days after their last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop. If the result is negative, individuals may return on the 8th day after their last exposure or later.
  - If positive, they should isolate for 10 days
  - **If no test is given or testing is unavailable and the individual remains asymptomatic, the student may return after the 10 day quarantine period.**
- Exception for household contacts: In all risk levels, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and who are household members of a student/staff member with COVID-19 compatible symptoms that meets COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If the ill person is not tested but an alternative diagnosis is established after clinical evaluation, household contacts can return to school.

*Who does NOT need to quarantine?*

- Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms and are **fully vaccinated:**
  - Do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school.
  - Should be tested 5-7 days following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
  - Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure, and report to the School Nurse/Building Principal if symptoms begin.
- Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms and have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days:
  - Do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school
  - Should not be tested for COVID-19 but should still monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure. If symptoms resume, these must be reported to the School Nurse/Building Principal.

On the following page, you will find the NJDOH Exclusion Criteria Chart based on the various criteria for each Activity Level for your reference.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Giovanni A. Giancaspro*

Superintendent of Schools

As of January 6, 2022 ([Updated by the NJDOH on December 15, 2021](#))

Quarantines for *Unvaccinated Close Contacts*



**Exclusion criteria for persons with COVID-19, COVID-19 compatible symptoms and unvaccinated close contacts<sup>1</sup>**

	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<b>COVID-19 positive</b> (viral test), symptomatic or asymptomatic	Exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a> Identify and exclude unvaccinated school based close contacts			Further recommendations will be based on additional circumstances and available resources at that time
<b>COVID-19 - compatible symptoms but not tested for COVID-19</b>	If no potential exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, individual can follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>  If person has potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>	If no potential exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days AND an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider, follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>  If no potential exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days but without an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider, exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>	If no potential exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days AND an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider, follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>  If no potential exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days but without alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider, exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>	
<b>COVID-19 - compatible symptoms and negative COVID-19 test</b> (viral test) <sup>2</sup>	Follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>			
<b>Unvaccinated close contact</b> of staff or student with COVID-19 <sup>3,4</sup>	Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded for <u>10 days (in absence of testing)</u> from date of last contact. Close contacts who test negative during the 5 <sup>th</sup> through 7 <sup>th</sup> days following date of last contact may return on the 8 <sup>th</sup> day or thereafter.			

1. In all risk levels, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and who are household members of a student/staff member with COVID-19 compatible symptoms that meets [COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria](#) should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If the symptomatic individual tests positive, the household member will need to quarantine.

2. Symptomatic individuals with high likelihood of COVID-19 (for example, who are close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases or who have had suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 AND who are not fully vaccinated AND have not had COVID-19 in the past 3 months) who test negative by rapid antigen test should undergo confirmatory testing with a molecular test (for example RT-PCR)

3. Fully vaccinated persons who have close contact with someone with COVID-19 do NOT need to be excluded from school if they are asymptomatic but should be referred for testing 5-7 days after exposure.

4. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days who have close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are asymptomatic do NOT need to be excluded from school and do not need to be tested.