



# Quarantine Guidance for School Exposures

For P-12 or K-12 Students, Teachers, and Staff | Sept 16, 2021

To support safe in-person instruction and to prevent the transmission of infection in an indoor setting, schools are expected to abide by the New York State Department of Health Commissioner's determination issued September 2, 2021 pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60 that all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors must wear masks at all times indoors, where individuals are over the age of two and medically able to tolerate a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

## Students

- **Fully vaccinated/protected (FVP)\***: No quarantine if always masked and > 3 feet from case. If < 3 feet for 15 minutes from case, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure
- **Partially or unvaccinated (PUV) students**: No quarantine if masked and ≥ 3 feet from case, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure. Quarantine if ≤ 3feet x 15 min from a case.

## Teachers, TAs, and Staff

- **FVP and masked, close contact\*\* of case**: No quarantine, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure.
- **PUV, close contact of case**: Quarantine.

## Staff to Staff Exposure

In general, staff must wear a mask and keep 6 feet distance in school facility.

- **FVP, close contact**: No quarantine, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure.
- **PUV, close contacts**: Quarantine.

## Additional Guidance for Specific Settings:

### Lunch

- **FVP students adjacent to case**: No quarantine, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure if asymptomatic.
- **PUV students**: > 6 feet, no quarantine. Those < 6 feet to case, quarantine.
- **Adults**: If masked and ≥ 6 feet, no quarantine.

### Choir, singing (should be spaced ≥ 6 feet)

- **FVP**: No quarantine, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure.
- **PUV**: Quarantine close contacts.

\* **Fully Vaccinated/Protected (FVP)**: People considered protected are those previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

\*\***Close Contact**: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

## **Gym** (wearing masks, 6 feet spacing)

- **FVP and PUUV:** No quarantine.
- When activities are closer than 6 feet or engaged in contact sports, OCHD case-by-case review.

## **Sports**

### High Risk Sports:

- **FVP:** No quarantine, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure.
- **PUUV/Both Teams:** Quarantine all players in close contact.

### Moderate Risk Sports:

- **FVP:** No quarantine, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure on case-by-case basis
- **PUUV:** Only quarantine on a case-by-case basis (based on time and contact with the case)  
*Same as above when community transmission level is substantial or high.*

## **Buses, all ages** (masks mandatory)

- **FVP:** No quarantine. If adjacent to a case and ride is  $\geq 15$  minutes, recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure.
- **PUUV:** Quarantine individuals adjacent to a case if ride is  $\geq 15$  minutes.

## **General Considerations**

- No option to test out of quarantine per NYSDOH's guidance.
- No testing out of isolation if COVID-19 PCR molecular test is positive.

## **Pooled Saliva Test, Positive or Indeterminate**

If the pooled test is positive or indeterminate, each person in the pool will be tested individually using a PCR test to determine if an individual in the pool is positive for COVID-19.

- Follow up individual PCR testing will be available within 12-24 hours. No additional sample needed
- Students in a positive or indeterminate pool will remain out of school until they receive a negative individual PCR test result.
- If the school receives notification of a positive pool during in-person learning, arrangements must be made to pick up students in the pool from school as soon as possible. Staff should be sent home as soon as is feasible.
- If pick up during school hours is not possible, the students can be sequestered fully masked in a separate area to be picked up by parents/guardians at the end of school day.