



Catholic Education Office

## Diocese of Rockford

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January 10, 2022

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to share that the Rockford Diocese has adopted the following guidelines for isolation and quarantine periods for students and staff members who have tested positive with COVID-19 or are considered a close contact.

**If your student is COVID-19 positive and continues to have a fever or other symptoms that have not improved after 5 days of isolation, your student should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicine), and have no symptoms.**

Students who are currently impacted by a quarantine/isolation now have a revised return to school date.

### **Please note the following for all students/staff members who test positive for COVID-19:**

- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, **should isolate for 5 days after onset of symptoms, or 5 days from specimen collection date if no symptoms are present.**
- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 and have no symptoms can be released from isolation after 5 days. **To calculate the 5 day isolation period, day 0 is the first day of symptoms or specimen collection date if asymptomatic. If they continue to have a 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 fever reducing medicine), and have no symptoms.**
- Continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others (including at home) for 5 additional days after release from isolation. If unable to wear a mask when around others, the student/staff should continue to isolate for a total of 10 days.
- Avoid being around students or staff who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease.
- If masks need to be removed (e.g., for lunch), ensure 6 feet of physical distancing until 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

The following chart provides information for students/staff members who are considered close contacts.

<p><b>If students/staff members fall into any of these:</b></p> <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>	<p><b>They should do <u>all</u> of these:</b></p> <p>Quarantine not required.</p> <p>Wear a mask around others for 10 days.</p> <p>Test on Day 5. If a person develops symptoms, they immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>If students/staff members fall into any of these:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received the single dose Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over two months ago and have not received the recommended booster shot.</li> <li>• Unvaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.</li> </ul>	<p><b>They should do <u>all</u> of these:</b></p> <p>Stay home and mask around others for 5 days.</p> <p>After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.</p> <p>Test on day 5. If a person develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.</p>

The local schools will continue to communicate if additional information or guidance becomes available. If your student is currently in quarantine, isolation, or has tested positive, and you need further guidance on when your student can now return to school, please contact your student's school.

Please note: the new guidance **does not** change the state of Illinois' mask requirement for anyone inside school buildings.

As always, thank you for your dedication and support as we navigate the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year together.

Sincerely,

*Vito C. DeFrisco*, Superintendent of Schools