

CCS NEWS: Updated COVID-19 Guidance for CCS Staff

Columbus City Schools <donotreply@columbus.k12.oh.us>

Thu 2/10/2022 10:02 AM

To: Columbus City School District Recipients <recipients@columbus.parentlink.net>

Updated COVID-19 Guidance from Ohio Department of Health and FAQ's for Columbus City Schools Staff

The Ohio Department of Health recently announced it updated COVID-19 guidance for Ohio schools. The changes are a response to the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant with high levels of ongoing exposure in the community. ODH no longer requires universal contact tracing in schools and recommends that the "Mask to Stay" guidance, which Columbus City Schools has been using, stay in place. The most updated version of "Mask to Stay" does not require students and Staff to quarantine for community exposures to COVID-19.

At this time, **CCS will continue with its COVID-19 contact tracing procedures in place. We have streamlined our contact tracing process so that Staff and families are notified of potential exposures quickly. We will continue to require universal masking and other mitigation strategies that help keep our community safe.** As new guidance from ODH is released, and community transmission rates change, we will periodically reevaluate our contact tracing and notification process.

Here are the important points our Staff needs to know about CCS COVID-19 procedures:

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

Anyone with COVID-19 should isolate for **five (5) days**. If you test positive, promptly report this to your supervisor so that a contact tracer or the school nurse can provide guidance and a return-to-work date. Use your normal call-off procedure. Before returning to work, you must be fever-free for 24 hours, and your symptoms must be improving. When you return to work, you must be able to wear a well-fitting mask. Please see the infographic from the Ohio Department of Health - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/covid-19-guidance-quarantine.pdf>.

What if someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19 or if I am exposed somewhere other than work.

New guidance from ODH recommends that if Staff of a K-12 school is exposed to COVID-19 in their household or out in the community, they no longer have to quarantine at home and may continue to come to work **if** they have no signs or symptoms of illness and can wear a well-fitting mask. People exposed to COVID-19 should closely monitor for symptoms for **ten (10) days** following the exposure. If you develop any symptoms, even mild ones, get tested and isolate until you know the results.

What should I do if I am not feeling well?

Please stay home from work if you are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, per the list below. Use your standard call-off procedure.

- Fever 100.4 F or greater.
- Diarrhea/Nausea/Vomiting

- New or worsened cough
- New onset severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- Congestion/runny nose
- Sore throat
- Fatigue/Body Aches
- New loss of taste and or smell

1. We recommend that Staff, who have symptoms associated with COVID-19, get tested, even if their symptoms are mild. This method is the best way to ensure that you do not unknowingly infect someone at work or in your household. Free BinaxNOW tests may be available at the building where you work. Sick individuals should not come into district buildings.
2. Staff should be without signs and symptoms of illness and should be fever free for 24 hours **without the use of** medication before returning to school.
3. Staff who come to work and have symptoms may be sent home with an Isolation letter. You may be required to isolate for **five (5) days** or provide verified results of a negative COVID-19 test to return before **five (5) days**.
4. Contact leavesofabsence@columbus.k12.oh.us with any questions about working from home.

Based on [Mask to Stay/Test to Play K-12 Quarantine Alternative](#) issued by the Ohio Department of Health on 1/26/22 and [Isolation and Quarantine guidance](#) issued by ODH on 1/25/22.

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Columbus City School District. If you wish to stop receiving email updates sent through the Blackboard service, please [unsubscribe](#).
Columbus City School District | 270 E. State St. Columbus, OH 43215, , | 614-365-5000