

# COVID-19 guidance for in-person education

This guidance, along with CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines, can help you continue in-person learning as safely as possible.

## 1. Students and staff should receive their COVID-19 vaccines.

All eligible students and staff should be vaccinated against COVID, including booster shots (and third doses, if immunocompromised). To learn more, visit [Geisinger.org/COVIDVax](https://www.geisinger.org/COVIDVax).

*Anyone age 6 months+ should also have their annual flu shot and other recommended vaccinations.*

## 2. Continue indoor masking requirements for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

All students (age 2+) and staff should wear masks indoors and at school activities. Avoid mask-optional approaches, especially when hospitalizations and positive cases are high in your community. Refer to PA DOH guidance for timing of mask-optional approaches.

## 3. Students and staff who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 or have symptoms should follow CDC guidelines.

**If you were exposed to COVID and aren't up to date on your COVID vaccines:**

- Stay home and away from others for at least five full days.
- Get tested, whether you have symptoms or not, at least five days after close contact with someone. If you have symptoms, stay home until you know the test result.
- No symptoms? Wear a well-fitted mask for five more days (until 10 days have passed since you were exposed).
  - Stay apart from others while unmasked during mealtimes.

**If you were exposed and are up to date on your COVID vaccines:**

- You don't need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.
- Get tested, whether you have symptoms or not, at least five days after close contact with someone. If you have symptoms, stay home until you know the test result.
- Wear a well-fitted mask for a full 10 days any time you're around others (indoors and outdoors).
  - Stay apart from others while unmasked during mealtimes.

**If you were exposed to COVID and had confirmed COVID within the past 90 days:**

- You don't need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.
- If you develop symptoms, stay home and get tested. Stay home until you know the test result.
- Wear a well-fitted mask for a full 10 days any time you're around others (indoors and outdoors).
  - Stay apart from others while unmasked during mealtimes.

**If you test positive for COVID or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status:**

- Stay home for at least five days and stay away from others in your home.
  - Wear a mask if you must be around others at home.
- If you're not immunocompromised **and** you can always keep apart from others and mask, you can end isolation after five full days if:
  - You're fever-free for 24 hours (without use of medication)
  - Your symptoms are improving
- If you don't have symptoms, you can end your isolation 5 days after your positive test.
- Wear a well-fitted mask for a full 10 days any time you're around others (indoors and outdoors).
  - Stay apart from others while unmasked during mealtimes.
- If you're severely ill with COVID or immunocompromised, talk with your doctor before ending isolation.

**Note:** A test isn't required to return to school when following these guidelines. If you use an at-home (antigen) test and get a negative result but have symptoms, schedule a PCR COVID test.

**4. Do not require weekly testing of students and staff who don't have COVID symptoms.**

If resources allow, offer voluntary weekly testing during periods of high community transmission to those with personal health concerns or a high-risk family member.