

## 2023-2024 COVID Information - Holland Patent Central School District

The Holland Patent Central School District is following the latest guidance (8/1/22 and 9/8/22) from the [New York State Department of Health regarding COVID-19](#). As a result, we have returned to school providing strong academics, a variety of extracurricular and athletic offerings, and maximizing space and staff without social distancing restrictions. The most up-to-date links and documents can be found on our webpage for [our Health Offices](#).

Here is an overview of the information regarding the changes to assist our school community:

### **Illness/Positive COVID Test**

As with **any** infectious illness, students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, or who show symptoms, are asked to **stay home** from school and follow the [Centers for Disease Control's Isolation Guidance](#) and the [New York State Department of Health Isolation Guidance](#), particularly these two statements:

- Someone who tested positive and has no symptoms may return to school after day 5.
- Someone who is sick (has symptoms) may return to school after day 5 if they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.

*See Flowchart on page 2*

*There is **no longer** a requirement to demonstrate/provide proof of a negative COVID test to determine return to school or work. People who have been sick, or tested positive, should wear a mask through day 10.*

*Quarantining is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19. In schools, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested.*

*September 2022 original and revised to include 2023-2024 school year September 2023*



Holland Patent Central School District - 2022-2023 School Year

**Flowchart for COVID Positive**

Based on CDC/NYSDOH/NYSED Guidance 8/22/22 and 9/8/22

STAFF/STUDENT **POSITIVE** COVID TEST

Positive Case is Confirmed (PCR Test or Rapid Test)

**Minimum 5-day ISOLATION**

Regardless if you have symptoms or not

**Return to School/Work on Day 6**

- Completed the five (5) day ISOLATION period from date of symptom onset OR the date when the COVID test was taken
- May return on day six (6) IF:
  - Asymptomatic or symptoms are improving and
  - No fever for 24 hours, without fever reducing medicine

**DO NOT Return to School/Work**

- Completed the five (5) day ISOLATION period from date of symptom onset OR the date when the COVID test was taken
- May NOT return on day six (6) IF:
  - Symptomatic or symptoms NOT improving
  - Presence of fever within 24 hours,

**How do I count the days? EXAMPLE:**

- Day 0: Symptoms started (onset) or tested positive
- Day 1: Stay home
- Day 2: Stay home
- Day 3: Stay Home
- Day 4: Stay home
- Day 5: Stay home
- Day 6: Return to school if asymptomatic, or if symptoms are improving.

**Pursuant to NYSDOH Guidelines, a person returning to school/work after 5 days should wear a mask from day 6-10.**

*\*\*NEW\*\* Quarantining is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19. In schools, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested.*

**UPON RETURN TO SCHOOL/WORK**

- Follow all COVID protocols regarding masking and hand-hygiene.
- If symptoms return or get worse, remain out of school/work until the above criteria can be met AND complete the 10-day isolation period.
- Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Information**

Children ages 6 months and older are all eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Children older than 5 are eligible for a booster. COVID-19 vaccinations are not required to attend school or work. For more information on vaccination sites, visit [ny.gov/vaxtoschool](https://ny.gov/vaxtoschool).

## **Masks**

Mask-wearing is recommended for at least 10 days following a positive COVID test, or COVID illness. Any student or staff member may wear a mask while at school to prevent the spread of illness. No one shall be bullied, harassed, or discouraged from wearing a mask. Schools will have extra face masks on hand to distribute to students and staff for personal protection.

## **Health and Safety Protocols**

Routine cleaning in our school buildings and buses continues to be an important strategy for reducing the spread of illness. High-risk areas such as health offices, classrooms, lunchrooms, athletic rooms, bathrooms and high-traffic areas are cleaned and disinfected at a greater frequency. High-touch surfaces such as bus seats, lunch tables, desks, chairs, light switches and handrails are cleaned at a greater frequency.

The district shall continue to use disinfectant equipment in large spaces on a routine basis, and in the case of a known COVID exposure. Hand washing and sanitizing is strongly recommended. Hand sanitizer will be readily available.