

COVID-19 Safety Measures at CPS for School Year 2022-2

Updated August 15, 2022

CPS strives to keep school communities safe while maximizing in-person learning, which we know is critical to our students' learning and development. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released updated guidance Thursday afternoon for COVID-19 safety measures in schools. While we are still reviewing the updated guidance with the Chicago Department of Public Health, our labor partners, school leaders, families, and other key stakeholders — here's what families and staff need to know right now:

- **Vaccination is still the most important way to protect yourself** from severe illness, and CPS will continue to offer vaccine events throughout the city to help families and staff get vaccinated. Visit cps.edu/vaccinations to find information about the importance of vaccines and make an appointment for yourself or your student. Vaccines are safe, effective, free, and widely available to all Chicagoans over six months of age.
- **Wearing a mask is still an important way to prevent spreading the virus** to others. CPS will continue to strongly recommend masking in school, and masks will continue to be required in the following situations:
 - On days 6–10 after testing positive for COVID-19
 - If someone is exposed to COVID-19
 - If there is a positive case identified in an elementary school classroom,
 - If a high school student or staff member is notified that they have are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - At the direction of the Chicago Department of Public Health.
- **CPS will continue to offer free, weekly in-school COVID-19 testing** to students and staff who are interested. Importantly, anyone who wants to enroll in testing this year will need to fill out an updated consent form — regardless of whether or not you participated in weekly testing last year. That updated consent form can be accessed [here](#). Consent forms from last school year or this summer will not be valid for the 2022–23 school year. However, once a student or staff member has consented this year, that consent will remain in place until they leave CPS.
- **Updated Guidance for Close Contacts:** In keeping with the latest guidance from the CDC, our Test to Stay program is evolving for this school year. Moving forward, any student or staff member who is exposed to COVID-19 in school — regardless of

vaccination status — will no longer be required to learn or work from home for five days, but will be required to wear a mask in school for 10 days following exposure, and will be strongly encouraged to test three and five days after exposure. CPS will provide families and staff members with rapid take-home tests if they are exposed, and we will strongly encourage families to use them in order to prevent spread and ensure safe in-person learning for all students and staff.

We will continue to provide families with additional updates to COVID-19 protocols as we work to ensure a safe in-person learning environment.