



January 12, 2022

Re: NJDOH Updates Regarding Covid Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines

Dear WTPS Staff and Families,

The Washington Township School District has implemented a new set of isolation timelines for Covid-positive individuals, as well as quarantine guidelines for individuals designated as “close contacts,” as recently recommended by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH).

You can find detailed information on these NJDOH guidelines [here](#).

The good news is that the new guidance reduces the isolation and quarantine timeline to five (5) days out. After five days, quarantined individuals may return to school if they are symptom-free and adhere to strict mask wearing for five additional days.

Fully vaccinated individuals will not have to quarantine, if exposed; however, the definition of a “fully vaccinated” individual has expanded to include the requirement of a booster shot for any person, 18 years and older, who is eligible for a booster.

If you are 18 years or older and beyond five (5) months from your second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine- or five (5) months from your single shot of Johnson & Johnson - and have not received a booster, by definition, you are no longer considered “fully vaccinated,” and therefore, you will have to quarantine if exposed. I have included the explanation from the NJDOH below.

***Who does not need to quarantine?***

*Individuals in the following groups, who had close contact with someone with COVID-19, do NOT need to quarantine but should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days and get tested at least five (5) days after the last close contact. If the test is positive, or if COVID-19 symptoms develop, follow isolation recommendations:*

- *Adults ≥ 18 years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine AND have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.*
- *Children and adolescents 5-17 years old who completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccine.*
- *Persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (positive viral test).*

We pass along this updated information on reduced quarantine times as encouraging news that will shorten the time spent out of our classrooms and buildings by students and staff alike.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, Superintendent