

# High Bridge School District

## COVID-19 Protocols 2022-2023

The following are the 2022-2023 COVID-19 Protocols currently in place for the High Bridge School District. These protocols follow our [Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services](#) as outlined in the NJ Department of Education's [The Road Forward](#) and are subject to change as we receive new guidance from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Governor's office.

**Vaccinations** – Vaccines are strongly recommended to protect against severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19.

- a. As of August 15th, 2022, the State is no longer requiring that unvaccinated workers in school districts and child care settings undergo routine Covid-19 testing requirements.
  - b. Staff should provide proof of up to date vaccination, including all boosters.
  - c. The vaccine is not a requirement for students, but if your child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, please send a copy of the vaccination record to your school nurse so that they may add it to your child's immunization file.
2. **Masks** – are optional. They are recommended when Covid-19 community levels are high, when there is an active outbreak. Masks should be worn after returning from isolation (after a positive test), after a known Covid-19 exposure, or when there is illness with symptoms compatible to Covid-19 in the school. Individuals should make decisions to mask based on their specific situation.
3. **Screenings** – Staff and parents must conduct a Covid screening each morning before coming to school. See the link for details: [District Covid Daily Pre Attendance Screening](#).
4. **COVID-19 Positive Cases** – If any student or staff member, either vaccinated or unvaccinated, tests positive for COVID-19, please report the positive case to the nurse (Elementary School, call 908-638-4105 ext. 4218; Middle School, call 908-638-4101 ext. 4118).
5. **Isolation** – Isolation is still in effect for ill individuals or those who test positive for COVID-19 as follows:
- a. Ill individuals with COVID-like symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home until at least 5 days have passed from symptom onset ***and*** at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
  - b. Individuals can return to school on day 6 and must wear a mask on days 6 through 10. During days 6 through 10 limit participation in extracurricular activities to only those activities where masks can be worn consistently and correctly.
  - c. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic must stay home for 5 days from the positive test result.
  - d. An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) ***is*** acceptable for individuals to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.
  - e. For alternate diagnosis, please follow the NJDOH School Exclusion list to determine when they can return to school

6. **Close Contacts and Quarantine** – NJDOH defines a close contact as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known Covid for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period. Individuals would be considered exposed to someone with Covid from 2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test date if they are asymptomatic.

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to Covid-19. People who were exposed to Covid can continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic. Individuals who were exposed to Covid should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure. Exposed individuals regardless of immunization status are strongly recommended to get tested 5 full days after exposure on day 6 (date of exposure is considered day 0). If testing is unavailable, school attendance can continue. If the test is positive, they must follow isolation guidelines.

After exposure, carefully monitor for signs and symptoms of Covid such as fever of 100.4, or greater, cough, shortness of breath, or other Covid symptoms for 10 days. If Covid symptoms should develop, students/staff should immediately get tested and follow isolation recommendations.

Individual contact tracing is no longer required. If there is a case of Covid in classrooms, a broad based notification will be sent to notify those of a possible exposure. If there is an identified cluster or outbreak in the school, additional layered measures, such as distancing and mask may be implemented

7. **Schoolwork While on Quarantine** – Students who are quarantined will receive assignments either via Google Classrooms or with take home packets. Please contact your student's teacher.
8. **Visitors in the building** – Visitors will self-screen for Covid symptoms and will exclude themselves if they have had a known close contact. Any visitor with Covid compatible symptoms will be restricted from entering the building.
9. **Social Distancing** – Programs and classes should consider increasing ventilation and prevent crowding during periods of medium and high community levels.
10. **Shared Items** – Shared items should be disinfected daily. When sharing items students should wash hands or use hand sanitizer before using the items.

We appreciate your cooperation with these protocols to keep our students and staff safe and healthy while at our schools and helping us to provide a traditional school year for students.

Reference:

[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/PH\\_Recommendations\\_K-12\\_Childcare\\_Camp.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/PH_Recommendations_K-12_Childcare_Camp.pdf)