



7 January 2022

Dear Hopewell Families,

Last week, the CDC updated its COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health confirmed late yesterday afternoon that they have adopted this new guidance and it is applicable to schools. Hopewell Area School District will be adopting these new guidelines immediately in regards to students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a close contact. The new guidelines are as follows:

If you test positive for COVID (vaccinated or unvaccinated):

- Isolation period is now shortened from 10 days to 5 days. The five day period begins from symptom onset or positive test result, whichever comes first. Symptom onset/positive result is day 0. If the student or staff member is **asymptomatic, symptoms have been resolved, and fever free without medication for 24 hours**, students/staff can return to school on day 6 while wearing a mandatory facial covering through day 10 (even if the district is at an optional facial covering phase, per the District Health and Safety Plan). If symptoms remain, isolation should continue.

If you are identified as a close contact (fully vaccinated):

- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine following a COVID exposure; however, they will need to have a facial covering on at all times and it is recommended those individuals take be tested on day 5 after an exposure if possible (home tests are not accepted).

To be considered fully vaccinated

- People who have completed the primary series of Pfizer, Moderna, or J & J vaccine and more than 2 weeks have passed



If you are identified as a close contact (unvaccinated):

- Students and staff who are unvaccinated will need to quarantine for 5 days after the exposure (shortened from 10 days) as long as student/staff remain asymptomatic. It is highly recommended that the student/staff be tested on day 5 after an exposure if possible (home tests are not accepted).
- Students and staff can return to school on Day 6 if asymptomatic and will need to wear a facial covering through day 10 (even if the district is at an optional facial covering phase, per the District Health and Safety Plan).

The district expects these guidelines to remain fluid and appreciates your ongoing support of our health and safety efforts.

With Viking Pride-

Hopewell Area School District Nurses and Administration

As of January 7, 2022, Beaver County is still in the high transmission rate which means facial coverings are required for all students, staff, and guests while indoors in the Hopewell Area School District.