



1/5/22 – Message to Families Regarding COVID Protocols

Dear AACPS Families,

This message to let you know that following conversations with the Anne Arundel County Department of Health today, we are revising the isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19. Such persons (students or staff) must isolate for 10 days, with no option to test out early. This change is being made due to the fact that students eating lunch unmasked are unable to be isolated from one another.

COVID-positive persons may return to school settings after 10 days as long as they are asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours. They do not need a negative test to do so and they do not need to mask in indoor public settings. NOTE: Masks are required by state regulations in all schools.

Those who are quarantined by the Department of Health or any other agency must do so for five days. They can return to the school setting as long as they are asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours but must mask in all public indoor settings (including schools and athletic activities) for an additional five days after their return. They do not need a negative test to return to a school setting.

Students or staff who become symptomatic at home or who are sent home from school with COVID-like symptoms must get a negative test or an alternate medical diagnosis *and* be asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Without a negative test or an alternate medical diagnosis, such persons must isolate for 10 days.

This change came about mid-morning today and some families with COVID-positive students had already been informed of a five-day isolation. In accordance with the above, that isolation period has been extended to 10 days. Schools will make the appropriate adjustments in the isolation period.

Finally, schools have received many inquiries about those living in the same household as COVID-positive people. Such household contacts:

- *do not* have to quarantine if they are vaccinated and asymptomatic.
- *do* have to quarantine for five days if they are unvaccinated and asymptomatic. They may return after five days as long as they are asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours but must mask in all public indoor settings (including schools and athletic activities) for five days.
- have to quarantine and get tested if they are symptomatic, regardless of whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated. With a negative test, they may return after five days as long as they are asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours but must mask in all public indoor settings (including schools and athletic activities) for five days.

We are in the process of updating our www.aacps.org/covidprotocols site with this and other information. Please check it regularly.