

COVID-19 Guidelines-**UPDATED**

As of 2/28/22

Optional Mask Policy

As of March 7th, 2022, the Governor's executive order requiring masks in schools expires. Upon the medical advice from our school doctor, the Bound Brook School District will make masks **optional** for all students and staff, with the understanding that it is a fluid decision based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the district and/or Somerset County.

Please note: As per the CDC and NJDOH, as of March 7th, 2022, masks will now also be optional on school buses.

In accordance with the State Health Department guidelines, masks will still be mandatory in the following situations:

- Individuals who are returning after isolation or quarantine are asked to wear masks upon returning to school for days 6-10.
- If an individual begins to show symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in the school building, they should wear a mask until they leave the premises.
- Students and staff participating in Test to Stay should wear a mask.

Individuals Should Stay Home if:

- The individual tests positive for COVID-19.
 - The individual experiences COVID-19 compatible symptoms. They are defined in NJDOH K-12 school guidance using CSTE/CDC case criteria definition as those who have:
 - At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose;
- OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

TEST TO STAY PROGRAM:

Test to Stay is for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals who:

1. Remain fully asymptomatic from COVID-19 symptoms.
2. Have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case whereby exposure occurred in the school setting and both the case and close contact were fully and appropriately masked at that time.

Guidelines:

1. Individual (staff or student) must fill out consent form to be tested (Google Form) (Link to the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/WpYurz1VtYADvE28A>).
2. Must always appropriately mask indoors and outdoors in school settings except when eating or drinking for all 7 days of the testing time frame.
3. Remain at least 6 feet away from other students.
4. Quarantine when not at school and refrain from all extracurricular activities unless the activities are school-sanctioned and take place in a setting where social distancing and masking can be strictly enforced.
5. Monitor symptoms daily for 14 days following the last known exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Implementation for Staff and Students:

1. Rapid antigen testing will take place on school grounds by a nursing assistant (or nurse if assistant is not available).
2. At-home tests will not be eligible for Test to Stay.
3. Testing of students and staff will take place as soon as possible following notification of being a close contact.
4. After the first negative test, a student/staff member may resume in-person learning.
5. Testing will follow every other day, or day 1/3/5/7. If Day 7 is on a weekend or holiday, the last test will occur on the next subsequent school day.
6. Students and staff testing negative for all days during the testing time frame can resume normal activities while monitoring symptoms through day 14.
7. If at any point a student or staff member becomes symptomatic during the testing time frame, the student should be excluded from school and referred for diagnostic testing.
8. Should a student or staff member test positive, they should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms onset while remaining fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications.
9. A student or staff member who tests positive on any day during the testing time frame while remaining asymptomatic should isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the positive test result.
10. All schools participating in the program are required to report all results to SCDOH either by SimpleReport or Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS).