

Whitehall Central School  
87 Buckley Road  
Whitehall, NY 12887

**EFFECTIVE March 2, 2022**  
**COVID PROTOCOLS INCLUDING MASKING**

**ARE MASKS REQUIRED IN SCHOOL OR ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION?**

No. The state requirement for universal masking ended on March 2, 2022 and encompasses all district activities, including: in-person instruction, transportation, and all extra-curricular activities.

Students, staff, faculty, and visitors maintain the ability to continue wearing a mask if they desire and the district will support their decision.

**IS THERE A TIME WHEN MASKING IS REQUIRED?**

The NYSDOH requires that students, staff, and faculty wear masks upon returning to school after a positive COVID diagnosis (*Days 6-10 of their isolation period*). Individuals who are required to wear masks in school, must also wear a mask on school transportation or when participating in any extra-curricular activities.

**DOES THE REMOVAL OF THE MASK MANDATE CHANGE THE “ZONE OF EXPOSURE”?**

In settings where masks are not worn, anyone within a 6-foot radius of an infected person shall be considered “exposed”.

**HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILD HAS BEEN EXPOSED AT SCHOOL?**

The district will continue to notify direct contacts of a COVID-positive case when we are aware.

**WILL MY CHILD BE REQUIRED TO BE TESTED?**

Symptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are required to be tested. We will provide to those that need them, rapid tests.

**WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO TEST MY SYMPTOMATIC CHILD?**

Symptomatic individuals who are not tested must stay home for 5 days or until other criteria are met for school attendance. Upon returning to school, untested symptomatic students must wear a mask for days 6-10 of the isolation period.

**I [or my student] HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO A COVID POSITIVE INDIVIDUAL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

Contact tracing and case investigations are following the state's newest guidelines. Please read the NYS Contact Tracing & Case Investigation FAQs here for further instruction:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/contact-tracing-frequently-asked-questions>

**MY FAMILY USED AN “AT HOME” TEST KIT AND MY STUDENT TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

- Please contact your child’s main office and inform them of the positive test result.
- The student must be excluded from school and the positive test(s) must be self-reported by clicking the following link: [COVID Self-Test Report](#).

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- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for a minimum of five (5) days, regardless of vaccination status. If symptoms are resolving after five (5) days, the student is allowed to attend school, but will be required to wear a mask for days 6-10 of the isolation period. If symptoms persist, further isolation will be required.

**I AM EXPERIENCING COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS, HOW SHOULD I PROCEED?**

Students who are experiencing COVID-like symptoms, regardless of their vaccination status, must be excluded from attending school. Students may return to school under one of the following conditions:

- The student obtains an alternate medical diagnosis from their Primary Care Physician, or
- The student receives a negative PCR test;  
or
- The student receives two negative “At Home” rapid tests within 36 hours.

**MY STUDENT WAS COVID POSITIVE AND HAS COMPLETED THEIR REQUIRED PERIOD OF ISOLATION/QUARANTINE, HOW DO THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL?**

If the period of isolation or quarantine has expired, you may obtain your attestation forms by clicking this link: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing>