

January 11, 2022

Dear North Ed Community,

Northwest Education Services is updating its COVID-19 protocols with shorter isolation and quarantine periods to match the advice of our local health officials and align with new guidance from public health agencies. Health department and school officials will work with those individuals currently in isolation or quarantine to help them adjust to the new guidelines and return to school sooner.

Masks are still required for students, staff and visitors to North Ed's facilities whenever in the presence of others and regardless of vaccination status. Masks must also be worn when using school transportation. All North Ed satellite classrooms must follow North Ed's masking requirements. North Ed staffers assigned to work in local school districts may follow the rules of that school district.

Some highlights of the updated isolation and quarantine guidance North Ed will follow are below. To view the complete guidance, visit the websites of the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). The CDC's website offers additional details on [how to calculate quarantine and isolation periods](#) based on individual circumstances.

Isolation for COVID-19 Positive Tests/Symptoms

- Anyone who tests positive should isolate for at least 5 days after the onset of symptoms or receiving a positive test result. Masks should continue to be worn following the end of isolation. The day of symptoms or a positive test is considered Day 0.
- If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, return to school, while wearing a well-fitting mask on day 6.
- Those physically or medically unable to wear masks should isolate for a full 10 days before returning to school.

Close Contacts Who Should Quarantine

North Ed is not offering a "test to stay" option for close contacts. Those identified as close contacts should [quarantine](#) for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last close contact with a person who has COVID-19 if they are in one of the following groups:

- Ages 18 or older and completed the primary vaccination series but have not received a booster shot.
- Those who have received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a booster shot.

- Those who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.
- Those physically or medically unable to wear masks should quarantine for a full 10 days before returning to school.

Close Contacts Who Do Not Need to Quarantine

Students, teachers, and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they:

- Are up-to-date on all COVID-19 vaccinations they are eligible to receive.
- Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

We expect staff and students to stay home if they are unwell or exhibiting any [COVID-19 symptoms](#) that may be abnormal to the individual and [get tested](#) for the virus if you are experiencing symptoms.

The safety and well-being of our staff and students is paramount, and your support during this challenging time is crucial. As the landscape surrounding COVID-19 protocols and guidance continues to change, we will keep you informed as best we can. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Respectfully,

Nick Ceglarek, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Northwest Education Services