

October 5, 2022

Dear Families,

We are happy to welcome all our students back to school this year. In our continued effort to keep our schools safe, schools will be offering four COVID-19 home tests per month to all students and staff. These tests can be used by school families for testing due to symptoms, in case of known exposure, or for testing after participation in high-risk activity (such as travel and large gatherings). Please note, if there is a classroom exposure your child will also receive two tests immediately, along with a notification letter from the Situation Room providing further guidance, in addition to the four monthly tests.

### When to Get Tested

Everyone should get tested:

- **Immediately** if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Take two home tests, at least 48 hours apart
- **After having close contact** (being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) with someone while that person was infected with COVID-19. Take two home tests, at least 48 hours apart. All exposed individuals should monitor for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days after an exposure. If symptoms begin, they should not attend school and should isolate and get tested for COVID-19 again right away.
- **Before and after** travel or attending a gathering, especially if you or others are not vaccinated or up to date with your vaccine doses, or are at risk of severe COVID-19.

People who are vaccinated should still get tested. The COVID-19 vaccines do not cause you to test positive.

### At-home Testing

Most at-home tests allow you to test the sample yourself and get results in minutes.

Be sure to carefully read and closely follow the manufacturer's instructions. You can also watch videos in multiple languages on how to use your test kit at [schools.nyc.gov/HomeRapidTestKits](https://schools.nyc.gov/HomeRapidTestKits).

If you or anyone in your household tests positive, know that safe, effective COVID-19 treatments, including anti-viral medications, are available for some individuals ages 12 and older. You can access these medications through your doctor or health care provider, or you can call 212-COVID19 to discuss treatment options with a medical professional. Treatment works best when it is started as soon as possible after symptoms begin, and can reduce symptoms and help you to avoid hospitalization. For more information, please see <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/treatments-available.pdf>.

If your child tests positive on one of the tests:

- Please inform your school or program and isolate your child at home for five days. Your child may return to school on the sixth day if they have no symptoms or their symptoms are improving (including being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication). Children should wear masks on days 6–10, however, they may stop wearing masks during this period if they have received two negative rapid tests 48 hours apart.

- Please refer to our COVID-19 Guidance, available at [schools.nyc.gov/2022Health](https://schools.nyc.gov/2022Health), for additional steps to take if your child tests positive.

As a reminder, vaccination is the best tool we have to fight COVID-19 and to keep our schools safe for all students. Everyone aged 6 months and up is eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, please make an appointment for vaccination at [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) or call 311 to find a vaccine site near you. The vaccine is free to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration or insurance status.

A new COVID-19 vaccine booster has been authorized for some age groups that received their most recent vaccine dose at least two months ago. This booster is specifically designed to protect against the omicron subvariants that account for nearly all recent infections in New York City.

You can get this updated booster at the same time as other vaccines, so we encourage you to schedule both your booster and your flu shot today! [Learn more about getting the updated booster.](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Sincerely,



Tracy Agerton  
 Assistant Commissioner  
 Office of School Health

To view a copy of this document in your language, visit [schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies](https://schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies)

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