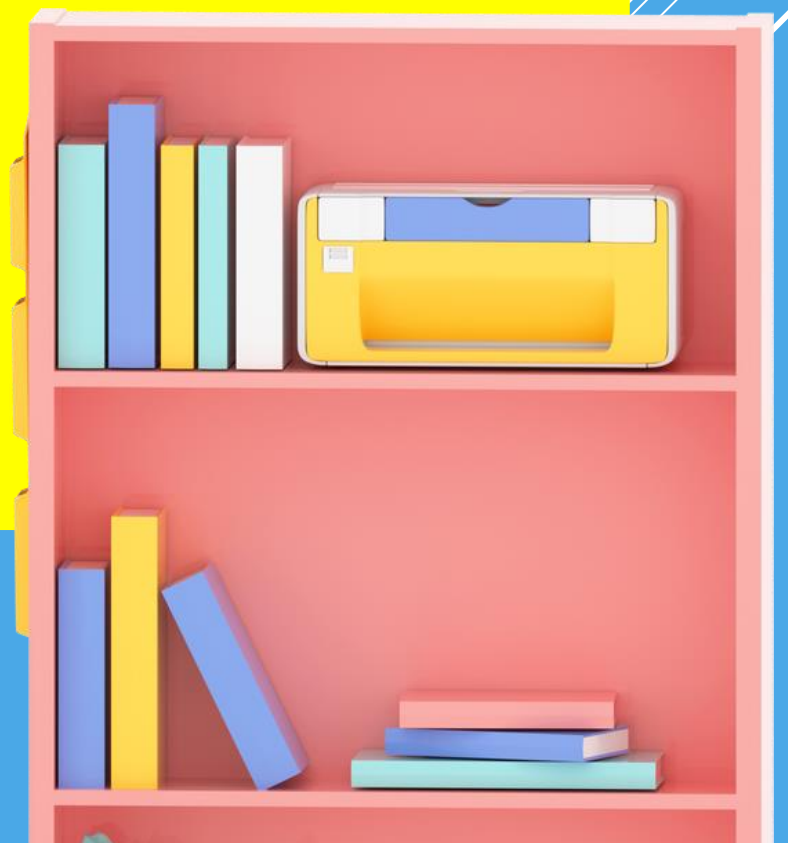


# COVID-19 Guidance updates

August 2022



# Mitigation Strategies

- 1 Staying up-to-date with vaccination
- 2 Staying home when sick
- 3 Maximizing ventilation
- 4 Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- 5 cleaning and disinfection



# Maintain the following practices:



## STAY UP-TO-DATE ON VACCINATIONS

The Dorchester County Health Department will continue to schedule COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the school year. New formulation for variants to come in September.

## USE HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Keep sanitation stations set up, stocked, and visible in all buildings.

Teach and provide opportunities to wash hands, teach/remind students to cough/sneeze into elbow.

## CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Maintain the same procedures we have had in place.

Clean and disinfect multiple times a day, especially high touch surfaces.

## MAXIMIZE VENTILATION

In schools, we will continue with ventilation practices which are all established to maximize intake of outside air while maintaining safety and comfort.

On school buses, continue to maximize airflow using window and hatch when possible.



DCPS August 2022



# Changes:

## **DISTANCING: NO LONGER A RECOMMENDED MITIGATION STRATEGY**

Lunch rooms, classrooms, and other spaces may return to pre-COVID distancing practices.

## **REDUCING VISITORS: NO LONGER A RECOMMENDATION**

Buildings can return to being open to families and visitors according to pre-COVID practices (remember safety considerations always).

## **ASYMPTOMATIC CLOSE CONTACTS ARE NOT EXCLUDED**

Do not ask for close contacts. If close contacts are offered, advise the individual to self-notify close contacts.



**STAY HOME  
WHEN SICK**

# COVID-19 Symptoms

## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS DEFINED

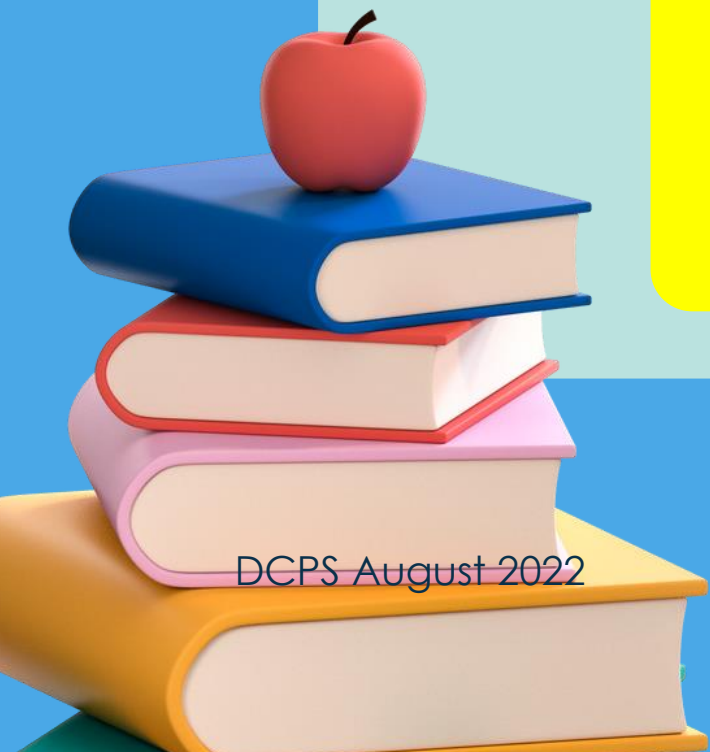
- Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea

## TEST

- OTC tests will be readily available. Encourage and provide OTC tests to staff and families.
- Health suite tests **ONLY** for students and staff who become ill during school day.

## STAY HOME UNTIL SYMPTOMS IMPROVE

- If negative, return when symptoms have improved for 24 hours since fever, vomiting, etc. as outlined in our standard school health protocols.



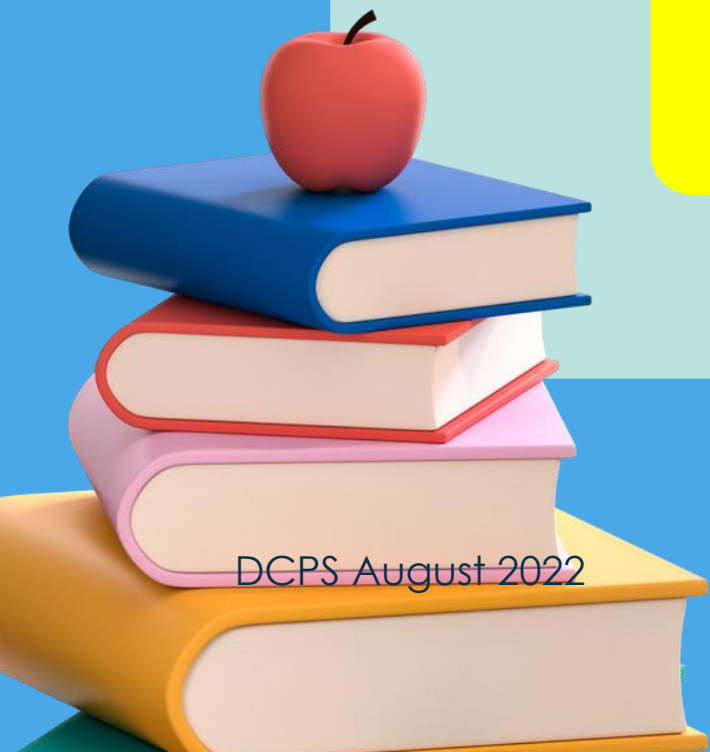
# COVID-19 Positive Individuals

## **ISOLATE AT HOME FOR 5 DAYS FROM SYMPTOM ONSET**

The day of symptom onset, or positive test if no symptoms, is day 0.

## **RETURN ON DAY 6, MASK THROUGH DAY 10**

If an individual cannot mask, a negative rapid test can be used on or after day 6 to return.



# Close Contacts of an individual with COVID-19

## NO SYMPTOMS

Staff or student can continue to work in or attend school and child care regardless of vaccination status.

## MASKING

Those who can mask, should do so for 10 days from the last exposure.

## TESTING

Testing recommended 3-5 days after exposure.

## REMEMBER:

- We are not contact tracing! If there is a COVID positive individual, classmates' families/staff will be notified.
- Families will be provided with the information and advised of next steps.



# If there is an outbreak

Definition of a cohort outbreak is 3 cases in a cohort within 14 days.

Definition of a school-wide outbreak is 5 cohorts in a school within 14 days.

## Action Steps:

1. *We must* report outbreaks to local and state health departments.
2. *We may* contact trace for most recent cases as appropriate. Nurse and Director will call DCHD to consult.
3. Families will be notified with robocall, school messenger and email.



## **SINGLE CASE**

Email, school message, robocall to notify of single case in cohort.

## **CLASSROOM OUTBREAK**

Email, school message, robocall to notify of outbreak in cohort. Ask parent to monitor for symptoms.

# Notifications

## **SCHOOLWIDE OUTBREAK**

Email, school message, robocall to notify families of school-wide outbreak. Set up optional testing clinics as needed.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

In the beginning of the pandemic, we were sharing positives with staff in the interest of contact tracing and public health. In the Spring, we returned to pre-pandemic practices and DCPS staff will not share the names of positive individuals with staff.

# thank You!

Any Question?

