

Post-Vaccination Guidance for Schools

The FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy at preventing severe and symptomatic COVID-19 infection. Based on the likely reduced risk of transmission from those who are vaccinated and the individual and societal benefits of avoiding unnecessary quarantine, **vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:**

- are fully vaccinated (i.e., exposure to someone with COVID-19 happened at least two weeks after receiving the last dose of their vaccine series), **and**
- have not had any symptoms of COVID-19 since the current exposure.

Teachers and staff who do not meet the above criteria should **continue to follow current quarantine guidance** after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Teachers and staff who do meet the above criteria and choose not to quarantine should still **watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.**

- If they experience symptoms, they should contact their doctor and get tested.
- To prevent possible transmission, vaccinated teachers and staff should continue to **follow current guidance to protect themselves and others** – including wearing a mask, staying at least six feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often.

Implementation of multiple mitigation strategies in schools will need to continue until the risk of transmission from those who are vaccinated is better understood and there is greater vaccination coverage in the community. It is also important to note that vaccines are not yet approved for children under 16 years old. **For these reasons, even after teachers and staff are vaccinated, schools will need to continue to follow the recommended mitigation strategies for the foreseeable future, including requiring masks in schools and physical distancing.**

Additional research is ongoing to determine how much the vaccines might reduce transmission, how long protection lasts, and the efficacy of the vaccines against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. Recommendations for those who are vaccinated will be updated when more data become available and additional COVID-19 vaccines are authorized.

