

# Updates for Reopening Schools for the 2021-22 School Year

Based on CDC guidance and Emergency Regulations from the Delaware Department of Education and Division of Public Health, here is important information for families for the 2021-22 school year.



## Vaccination

- Vaccination is the most important tool to end this pandemic. If you or your eligible family members are not yet vaccinated, please **find a location close to you** as soon as possible at [de.gov/getmyvaccine](https://de.gov/getmyvaccine).



## Face Masks

- Face masks **must be worn correctly (covering both the nose and mouth)** by both students and staff when students are in the building.
- Face masks must be worn by **all individuals** (students, bus drivers, aides, etc.) on school buses.



## Social Distancing

- CDC recommends **schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students at all times, combined with indoor mask wearing to reduce transmission risk.** *\*While sometimes, such as in buses, it may be necessary to place students less than 3 feet apart, students are more likely to be quarantined in the event of exposure regardless of mask use.*
- When it is **not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet**, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to **layer multiple other prevention strategies.**
- **Adults should maintain 6 feet of physical distancing at all times.**



## Routine Testing

- **Weekly testing for unvaccinated students and staff is another important mitigation strategy.** Many schools in the state are offering a testing program for students and staff. Find more information about testing in Delaware at [de.gov/gettested](https://de.gov/gettested). *\*At-home tests are valuable for surveillance (awareness) but are not considered confirmatory. A follow-up PCR test should be taken if an at-home test comes back positive.*



## Contact Tracing

- Participating in contact tracing is a critical tool for containing the spread of the virus in the school community.
- Only those who are identified as close contacts and are unvaccinated will need to quarantine.
- Students who were more than 3 feet from an infected student are not considered close contacts as long as **both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.** Source: CDC
- For **adults**, close contacts are defined as anyone within **6 feet** of another student or adult.



## Key Reminders

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash and/or sanitize hands frequently.

**Learn more about COVID-19 in children:**

<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2021/08/COVID-19-in-Children-8.31.21.pdf>