



PETERSHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

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September 20, 2021

Guidelines for Petersham Center School regarding COVID-19

The following guidelines were discussed at the Petersham BOH meeting on 9/16/2021. The recent increase in COVID-19 illness due to the delta variant with increased breakthrough illness, including illness in children, requires increased efforts to minimize the transmission of disease.

Mask policy and Social distance

All children and adults entering the building must wear a mask that filters incoming and outgoing air, thus protecting themselves and others from droplets that could contain COVID virus. This policy excludes gaiters, bandanas, and valved masks.

Indoors: Social distance within school buildings should be maintained with a separation of 3 feet or greater. This reduced separation is only allowed when masks are in use. When eating, students should maintain 6 foot separation.

Outdoors: Masks need not be worn outside during play *while students are maintaining adequate (six foot) separation*. Masks should be worn at other times, during games or play when six foot separation cannot be maintained.

What if a student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms at school?

If a student shows Covid-19 symptoms and is not feeling well, the Student should be isolated in the medical waiting room with supervision until the parent/guardian is able to pick up the student. If the school nurse determines that the symptoms warrant isolation and testing, the nurse will recommend that the parent/guardian contact the primary care physician for testing. (A note from a doctor suggesting an alternative diagnosis will not substitute for a test.) The test must be a molecular test (PCR test) as the rapid tests are too inaccurate to be reliable. The symptomatic student and any siblings should not take public transportation to get home, should be isolated, and should quarantine for 7-14 days as outlined in the DESE Protocols, or until the symptomatic student has a negative PCR test result.

If the symptomatic student's test is positive, the nurse will contact the Board of Health, and all students and any unvaccinated teachers in that classroom will be considered to be close contacts and should quarantine for 7-14 days as outlined in the DESE recommendations. (Teachers who are vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.)

If the student with symptoms tests negative for Covid-19, other students and teachers in that classroom are not considered close contacts and can return to school.



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What happens to the classroom that the student just came from?

The classroom should be vacated and aired as soon as possible, and cleaned and sanitized before next use.

When may a student/staff person and close contacts return to school after COVID-19 symptoms?

With a Negative test result

If the student who has had COVID-19-like symptoms is tested and found to be negative for COVID-19, they may return to school after they have improvement in symptoms and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

With no test or a positive test

If a student or staff member who presents with COVID-19-like symptoms chooses not to be tested or has a positive test result, they must remain in isolation for the time period specified in the DESE recommendations.

Travel Requirements

On return from out-of-state travel, students must be tested using a PCR test 3-5 days after return and stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. If the test is negative, they are free to return to school after 7 days. If they do not get tested, they must self-quarantine for 10 days.