



Tonica Community Consolidated School
District #79
535 N. 1981 Road ~ Tonica, IL 61370
(815)442-3420 ~ Fax (815)442-3111

1/13/2022

Dear Tonica Families and Staff:

On January 11, 2022, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced that the agencies have adopted CDC guidance for schools that reduces isolation and quarantine time to five (5) days.

As a result, effective on January 18, 2022, we will implement the updated ISBE/IDPH Guidance. As soon as possible, we will contact those who are currently impacted by a quarantine with a revised return to school plan.

Please note that the mask mandate is still in effect. Those in the building, and in some cases outside, must wear masks properly and while on the school bus. Students must have a mask on to board the bus each day.

If your child has been vaccinated, please forward a copy of their vaccination card to our office staff as soon as possible as that may impact possible close contact exclusion timelines. Below is the information from IDPH and CDC related to symptoms, quarantine, and recommended isolation periods.

EXCLUSION GUIDANCE

If you have COVID-19 symptoms

The health and safety of all children and staff begins at home. Everyone must do their part to keep students and staff safe, to stop the spread of COVID and to ensure that our school can remain open. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, keep them home and contact your physician immediately: ***{Fever of 100.4 or higher, Muscle or body aches from unknown causes, New cough, Vomiting, Fatigue or tiredness from unknown cause, New loss of taste or smell, Shortness of breath, Sore throat, New onset of moderate to severe headache, and/or Diarrhea}***

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must immediately be excluded from school until:

- Receiving a negative test result or a doctor's note that confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19 (either a (PCR) saliva test, a SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic (PCR) test, or rapid antigen test, and presents proper documentation from a health care professional) **Home testing kit results will NOT BE ACCEPTED;**
or
- For at least 5 days and a maximum of 10 days until fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, diarrhea and vomiting have ceased for 24 hours and other symptoms have significantly improved, especially coughing.
- Continue to strictly adhere to mask wearing at all times for an additional 5 days after returning to school.

Those who test positive should be excluded from school and follow the guidance for persons testing positive below.

If you test positive for COVID-19

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must do the following:

- Stay home for at least 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the 1st day of symptoms or from the date in which the specimen was collected indicating the individual was positive for COVID-19.
- Continue to strictly adhere to mask wearing at all times for an additional 5 days after returning to school.
- Individuals may return on day 6 if asymptomatic or if fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, diarrhea and vomiting have ceased for 24 hours and other symptoms have significantly improved, especially coughing.
- Note, that your clinical provider may determine that longer isolation periods are necessary for various reasons.

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have no symptoms

The following people **ARE** considered close contacts requiring exclusion from school:

- Students (including children/staff when symptoms or positive case occur in the family) and staff who are not fully vaccinated (complete primary series)
- Students and staff aged 18 years and older who have received primary COVID-19 vaccine doses but have not received a booster dose when eligible ("boosted").

Individuals without symptoms of COVID-19:

- Must stay home for five days after the last contact with the person who has COVID-19;
- Must wear a well-fitted mask around others for five additional days and remain asymptomatic; and
- Should test for COVID-19 on day five. Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive.

The following people are not considered close contacts require exclusion:

- A student who is within 3' in a classroom setting for at least 15 minutes with a confirmed or probable student case if both were consistently masked for the entire exposure period.
- Students and staff who have completed all recommended vaccine doses (adults-primary doses plus booster/ages 5- 17 who have completed the primary doses).
- An individual on school transportation within 3' if both the confirmed case and the exposed individual were consistently masked for the entire exposure period as long as the bus was properly ventilated.
- An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from the date of exposure.
- An individual who is solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors; however, schools may need to contact the local health department to determine the necessity of exclusion for higher risk exposures.
- These individuals must mask around others for 10 days and may consider testing on day 5, if possible. Those testing positive should be excluded from school following guidance for persons testing positive.

***Masks for any return after day 5 (positive, symptomatic or close contact) will be required for days 6 – 10 when outside, right after eating and in the lunch area in addition to the current masking for all indoor activities.*

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Charles Schneider
Superintendent/Principal