

# COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The Essex Fells School District has adjusted COVID-19 guidelines to reflect the most recent K-12 guidance for schools by the NJDOH and NJDOE.

\*Please note that these guidelines are subject to change with the fluid needs of pandemic response.

Revised 09/1/2022

## EFS SEPTEMBER 2022 UPDATES

- Masks are optional in our buildings for students, staff, and visitors, and on school buses for trips. Masks may still be required at specific venues for class trips.
- When a student/staff member tests positive and returns from the 5-day isolation, days 6-10 will require a mask indoors and outdoors. You may choose to produce 2 negative tests within 48 hours of day 5 to reduce masking by 3 days. The alternative to masking would be to complete the full 10 day isolation out of school.
- Students are not required to distance during indoor or outdoor activities. Classrooms have returned to cooperative learning environments with flexible seating options.
- Parents will be notified of a positive case within their class.
- Parents should notify the school if informed of a COVID exposure. Masks should be worn for 10 days following the last day of exposure.
- Lunch will be served indoors at grade level tables.
- All other health and safety procedures will remain in place at this time. Windows are open a minimum of 2 inches, air purifiers remain on during school hours, frequent hand washing and sanitization opportunities are scheduled into the school day, and drinking fountains remain closed.
- Please encourage your children to respect individual choices of others when it comes to masking or unmasking.
- Keeping EFS healthy will take honest and timely reporting of cases and exposures from the entire school community.

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Students completing Isolation requirements will access assignments through Google Classroom. School materials can be picked up at the Main Office. Virtual Instruction will not be administered.

## SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

- Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms).
- If symptoms resolve (fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms improve) isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
- If symptoms persist (fever or if other symptoms have not improved), continue to isolate until fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved.

## ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

- Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test)
- If no symptoms develop, isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
- If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms. Follow recommendations for ending isolation for persons who have COVID-19 symptoms.

- An exposure is defined as an individual who has been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more within 6 feet over the course of a 24 hour period.
- Please keep ill students home until symptoms subside or an alternative diagnosis is given.