



Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

On January 13, I communicated with you regarding recent Oneida County COVID-19 quarantine guidance. Since then, the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) released guidance that is specific to schools and BOCES that supersedes the Oneida County information. **This revised guidance is described below and is effective immediately.**

Additionally, the OHM BOCES is now able to offer COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic students in order for them to remain in school instead of having to quarantine after an exposure to COVID-19 in the school setting. This is called Test-to-Stay (TTS). Please note, for programs located at the Middle Settlement Road campus, the OHM BOCES will be following the quarantine and isolation requirements, and test-to-stay procedures, of each student's home school district. OHM BOCES programs located in component district facilities will follow the requirements and procedures of those districts.

Quarantine Requirements: Pursuant to this new NYSDOH guidance, if a student has been exposed to COVID-19, they **must** quarantine if they are in one of the following groups:

- They are fully vaccinated and eligible for a COVID-19 booster but have **not** yet received a booster shot. Though they must quarantine outside of school, **they are not required to stay home from school** as long as they remain asymptomatic. Their participation in the Test-to-Stay (TTS) program is encouraged, if they are eligible and their home school district has implemented a TTS program.
- They are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series (both doses of Pfizer-BioNTech/Moderna or one dose of J& J's Janssen vaccine) at least two weeks before they were exposed to COVID-19.
 - **If they are asymptomatic** - they may continue to come to school only if they are eligible for and participate in Test-to-Stay (TTS).
 - **If they are symptomatic or they do not participate in TTS** - when the quarantine period is completed, they will need to complete an [Oneida County Self Attestation Quarantine Form](#), and submit it to their program nurse.

If they are fully vaccinated and have also received a booster shot, they will not be required to quarantine after being exposed to COVID-19, unless they are symptomatic.

Information Regarding Isolation for Students Who Are Symptomatic and/or Test Positive for COVID-19

If they have COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay home from school and get tested for COVID-19. While waiting for test results, they must isolate until the test result is received, or five days, whichever is first. If the test result is negative, isolation can end. If the test result is positive, the next paragraph applies.

We are collaborators, working together and partnering with leaders in education, business, industry, government and the local community to promote inclusive educational and career opportunities and equitable access in order to prepare all of our learners for the dynamic world of today and tomorrow.

If they test positive for COVID-19, they must **isolate** for five days (day 0 is the day the test was collected), and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are improving (fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication), they may return to school but must wear a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. Once the isolation period is completed, they will need to complete an [Oneida County Self Attestation Isolation form](#), and submit it to their program nurse.

Testing-to-Stay

The OHM BOCES plans to implement a test-to-stay initiative that would enable asymptomatic students:

- who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than two months out from their J&J vaccine) to remain at school and avoid quarantining after being exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting.
- who are fully vaccinated and eligible for a COVID-19 booster but have not yet received a booster shot, to participate in TTS, though they are not required to do so.

The student's home district must also be implementing a TTS program for the student to be eligible to participate in the OHM BOCES TTS program.

In the case of a COVID-19 exposure, the written TTS procedures for school and/or at-home COVID-19 testing will be shared with the affected student's parent/guardian by their program principal.

As always, all students are expected to continue to adhere to our COVID-19 mitigation strategies by:

- Self-monitoring for symptoms daily.
- Staying home if they are symptomatic or positive for COVID-19.
- Wearing a well-fitted face mask (covering both your nose and mouth) at all times while at school, except for meals.
- Maintaining appropriate handwashing hygiene.

Thank you for your continued cooperation, understanding and support.

Sincerely,



Assistant Superintendent
for Instructional Programs and Professional Learning