

April 14, 2022

Dear Families,

Our “Stay Safe, Stay Open” plan has succeeded in allowing us to keep our schools open and remain among the safest places for young people to be during the COVID-19 pandemic, even as we have lifted the mask mandate for students in K-12. To keep our school communities safe after spring recess, we strongly encourage all students to get tested for COVID-19 before returning to school on April 25, regardless of vaccination status. Your child can take a PCR, lab-based test, or a home test. Your child was given four COVID-19 home tests; two for your child and two for a family member.

If you or anyone in your household tests positive, we are very pleased that safe, effective COVID-19 treatments, including anti-viral medications, are available for some individuals ages 12 and older who test positive. You can access these medications through your doctor or health care provider, or you can call 212-COVID19 to discuss treatment options with a medical professional. Treatment works best when it is started as soon as possible after symptoms start and can help reduce symptoms and help to avoid hospitalization. For more information, please see <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/covid/treatments-available.pdf> for additional information.

When should my child take the home tests?

- Please help your child take one of the COVID home tests provided on the evening of Saturday, April 23.
- Then help your child take the second home test 24 hours later, on the evening of Sunday, April 24.
- If your child tests negative on both tests and feels well, they should come to school on Monday, April 25.
- Please note that if your child has recovered from a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they do not need to take a test and should attend school on Monday, April 25, as long as they are feeling well.

What should I do if my child tests positive on one of the tests?

- Kindergarten and older: Please inform your school and isolate your child at home for five days. Your child may return to school on the sixth day if they have no symptoms or their symptoms are improving (including being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication). Your child must wear a well-fitting mask while at school through the tenth day after their positive test.
- Pre-K and younger: please inform your school/program and isolate your child at home for ten days. Your child may return to your school/program after the tenth day.
- For all ages:
 - Please remember that if your child tests positive, your child is entitled to asynchronous remote learning and Office Hours for the duration of your child’s isolation period.

- Please refer to our COVID-19 Guidance Charts, available at schools.nyc.gov/2022Health for additional steps to take if your child tests positive.

Where can I find instructions about the test kit?

- The test kits come with printed instructions that you should follow when administering the test. You can also watch videos in multiple languages on how to use your test kit at schools.nyc.gov/HomeRapidTestKits.

Thank you for doing your part to keep COVID-19 out of our schools! When your child returns to school after the break, please make sure they complete the daily health screening form every day, available at healthscreening.schools.nyc.

As a reminder, vaccination is the best tool we have to fight COVID-19 and keep our schools safe for all our students. Children ages 5 and older are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, please take the opportunity during the spring recess to make an appointment for vaccination at vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or call 311 to find a vaccine site near you. The vaccine is free to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration or insurance status.

Vaccine booster shots are also now available for all fully vaccinated people ages 12 and older who received the second dose of a two-dose vaccine at least five months ago. For more information about booster shots, see www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19vaccines.page#boost.

I wish you and your child a healthy and restful break,



Dr. Cristina Meléndez
Executive Director
Family and Community Engagement

To view a copy of this document in your language, visit schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies

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