

**Re: Updated Covid Policy March 2022**

As NYC continues to see low COVID-19 rates, Mayor Eric Adams lifted the mask mandate in NYC public schools. As a result, the Department of Education has released new guidelines regarding masking and other Covid-19 related protocols. The following changes go into effect on **Monday, March 7:**

**Face Coverings**

**NEW:** Effective March 7, face coverings will become optional, indoors and outdoors, on NYC public school grounds and on school buses, for all K-12 students and staff with a few exceptions. Please note that while wearing a face covering will no longer be required, anyone who chooses to wear a mask may continue to do so; face coverings will continue to be available through the school's custodian engineer. Face coverings are still required or recommended in the following scenarios:

**Face coverings are **required**:**

**Face coverings after return from 5-day isolation:** Anyone returning on Day 6 after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or after having COVID-19 symptoms without testing is still required to wear a well-fitting mask at all times on school property through Day 10.

**Face coverings in medical rooms/nurses' offices:** Wearing a face covering is still required in medical rooms/nurses' offices, as well as in School Based Health Centers. Nurses will have masks on hand for anyone entering who needs one.

**Face coverings are **strongly recommended**:**

**Face coverings following exposure:** It is strongly recommended that face coverings be worn when an individual has been exposed or potentially exposed to COVID-19 (in the same room for 15 minutes or longer with a person who tested positive for COVID-19). This face covering should be well-fitting and should be worn for 10 days after the known exposure.

**Social Distancing**

**NEW:** There are no requirements for social distancing in public spaces, including classrooms, cafeterias and auditoriums, unless the person is returning from isolation. As per NYS guidance, those that are required to still wear face coverings due to returning from isolation should distance when they have to remove their mask for eating.

**Visitor Policy**

**NEW:** A face covering is now optional for visitors.

All visitors wishing to enter DOE school buildings must ***continue*** to show proof of having at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination, show identification, and complete the daily health screening form.