

St. Louis County Department of Public Health recommends COVID-19 protocols in line with the CDC. Key messages from current COVID-19 guidance are:

- Everyone who is eligible should stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccination. As of September 11, 2023, the FDA has approved updated mRNA vaccines for 2023 – 2024 made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech.

Any student or staff member who is experiencing the following symptoms should not come to school:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a student or staff member develops any of the following symptoms during the school day, they should immediately be sent home:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

- At-home COVID-19 test kits are not approved for children under the age of two and should not be used to diagnose COVID-19 in that age group.
- Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should isolate for five days after testing positive. If symptoms have significantly subsided or completely resolved, the person can return to normal activity (including school) on day six but should continue to wear a mask through day 10. If they are still symptomatic after day five or if they are not able to wear a mask, they should continue to isolate until day 10.
- People who have been exposed to COVID-19 but are not experiencing symptoms do not need to isolate. However, precautions like masking are still encouraged when they can be done safely. Children under the age of two should not wear masks, and children should not mask during nap time.
- If someone who has been exposed develops any symptoms, they should take a test immediately. If the test is negative, but symptoms persist, a second test should be taken 48 hours later.
- A health care provider may recommend testing for other illnesses (e.g., flu, strep, RSV) as well as COVID-19 to determine the cause of illness.