

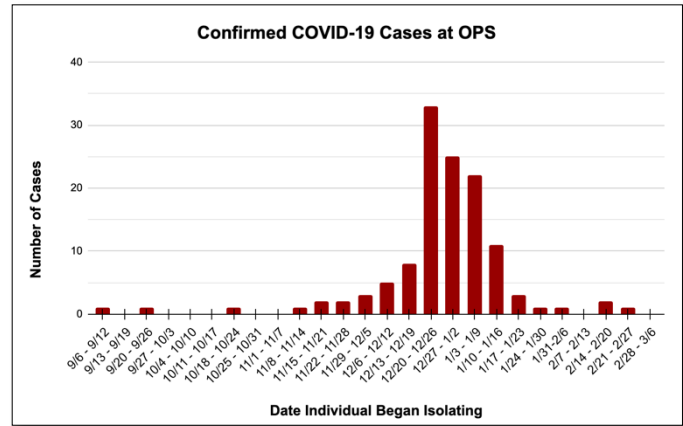


Our children,  
our hope,  
our future

March 2, 2022

Dear OPS Community Members,

The announcement of the end of universal masking within school buildings puts decision-making in the hands of individual school districts regarding how best to move forward, encouraging each district to look at community and school level data to inform decisions. Oradell Public School has seen a decline in cases mirroring our regional [Covid-19 Activity Level Index](#) (CALI Score), which shows Bergen County to be in the green or lowest activity level. As a result of the current downward trend in COVID cases, OPS will implement the following updated protocols beginning Monday, March 7th. These protocols are subject to change should district or public health data change.



### Masking

- Masking will be optional beginning March 7<sup>th</sup> with the following exceptions:
  - Students will wear masks in co-curricular activities including band, chorus, musical rehearsals, math league and student government, because of the mixing of homeroom cohorts.
  - Students who return from isolation and/or quarantine must continue to wear a mask both inside and outside on Days 6-10.
  - Students who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will wear a mask while they wait to be picked up.
  - Students in a homeroom where there was close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will wear a mask for ten days from last day of contact with the individual.
- If your child is in grades PreK-2, and you would like their teacher to remind them to wear a mask, please email your child’s homeroom teacher. If your child is in grades 3-6, please have a conversation with your child about your family’s masking plan. District staff will not be responsible for monitoring the wearing of masks in any grade level.
- Administration will be having grade level conversations this week regarding respecting differences, including a family’s masking choice.

### Isolation Because of a Positive Diagnosis

- If a student tests positive, the family must notify the health office immediately. They can do so by calling or completing the [“Reporting a Positive Covid Diagnosis”](#) form on the front page of the OPS website.
- When the diagnosis is reported, the school nurse will set up a follow-up phone call for Day 5<sup>1</sup> of your child’s illness. On Day 5, the school nurse will review your child’s current symptoms with you to determine whether your child should return to school. They must be symptom free to return to school.
- When returning to school, the individual must wear a mask both inside and outside the school building on Days 6-10.

<sup>1</sup> Day 1 is the day after symptoms occur or the day after a positive test (in asymptomatic individuals) or the day after close contact occurred. This is the day the quarantine or isolation period begins.

### **Quarantine Because of Close Contact During the School Day**

- Removing masks changes the definition of close contact within the school building. Without masks, an individual is considered a close contact if they are within SIX feet of someone for 15 collective minutes during a 24-hour period. This makes contact tracing extremely difficult, and could identify half of a homeroom as a close contact with one individual case.
- As such, beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>, OPS will not contact trace or require quarantining for individuals exposed to COVID during the school day. We will require that all individuals in the homeroom of a positive student or staff wear a mask inside and outside the school building for ten days.
- We will continue to notify parents if there is a positive case within that homeroom.

### **Quarantine Because of External Close Contact (i.e., home, sporting events, parties, etc.)**

- If an individual has close contact outside the school building, please notify the school nurse.
- If an individual is unvaccinated, the individual must quarantine for five days. They may return to school on Day 6 as long as they are asymptomatic. They must wear a mask inside and outside the school building on Days 6-10.
- Individuals who are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations or have had a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 90 days, do not need to quarantine. However, the individual must wear a mask inside and outside the school building for 10 days. If you would prefer the student to quarantine, remote instruction will be provided.

### **Daily Attestation**

- The district will continue to utilize the daily attestation form at this time. While neither the NJDOH or the CDC recommend school-based screenings, they do recommend that parents be encouraged to monitor children for symptoms through a home-based symptom screening. We have found that the daily attestation encourages all stakeholders to do a daily symptom check.

### **Travel Quarantine**

- The district is not implementing either a domestic or international travel quarantine at this time.

As a district, we are committed to continually using data to inform decisions. Therefore, it is important to remember that protocols will continue to be revised based on our school and community COVID levels. These revised protocols will go into effect on March 7<sup>th</sup>. If we see the need to make additional changes, they will be communicated clearly to all stakeholders.

As always, thank your partnership as we continue to move forward together as a community.

Sincerely,

Megan N. Bozios  
Superintendent