

KIPP NYC Health and Safety Policies Summary

Updated as of 2/13/24

While we will continue to follow any city, state, or federal guidance our approach this year will be one of maintenance combined with vigilance. An external - staff-facing - Staff FAQ can be found [HERE](#).

Below is a quick review of the top 10 things you need to know about our current policies.

SY 22-23 Policies At-A-Glance

1. **Contact Tracing & Communications:** Please note that KIPP NYC in alignment with the NYC DOE and NYC DOHMH no longer requires contact tracing of cases in our schools nor will communicate about every case that occurs in a school building.
2. **COVID Response & COVID Data Monitoring:**
 - a. KIPP NYC will no longer employ a dedicated COVID-19 response team for contact tracing. Instead, we are implementing a new protocol that places the responsibility of tracking COVID-19 cases directly in the hands of each school within our network.
 - b. Instead of reaching out to the COVID Response Team please escalate any issues or requests for assistance to:
 - i. For Staff: Please direct escalations and requests for assistance to KIPPNYCHR@kipponyc.org
 - ii. For Students: Please direct escalations and requests for assistance to your RDSO / SST Operations
3. **Handling A Case:**
 - a. If you experience a positive case in your school here is a quick guide on steps to take:
 - i. Send the individual home / Do not Allow them to Come in.
 - ii. Provide them with an expected return date to school - the return date is based on the date of their positive test or when they first experienced symptoms ([see here](#)).
 - iii. If you are in a DOE facility please report this case to the DOE Situation Room via their [online intake form \[apps.nycenet.edu\]](#).
 - iv. Please continue to internally track positive cases that occur for your school. Additionally, for staff, please track COVID cases in UKG by allotting staff members' available COVID pay hours in the system. Apply COVID pay hours in UKG based on scheduled work days.
4. **Determining Quarantine/Isolation Time:** The isolation period has changed from 10 days to 5 days. Staff and Students who test positive can return on Day 6 following a positive COVID test.
 - a. The isolation period for **ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS** who test positive for COVID-19 is currently five days.
 - i. If you had no symptoms
 1. Day 0 is the day you were tested (not the day you received your positive test result)
 2. Day 1 is the first full day following the day you were tested
 - ii. If you had symptoms
 1. Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset, regardless of when you tested positive
 2. Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started
5. **How to determine return to work/school date:** In general, individuals can return to work or school after their 5 calendar day period ends. Here is a brief outline of what to do if a staff member or student is sick beyond the initial 5 days.

- a. *Staff Sick Beyond Day 5:* If a staff member is still sick after five days, they may continue to be out of work and continue to receive COVID pay hours for up to five additional work days.
 - b. *Student Sick Beyond Day 5:* Students who continue to be sick after 5 days should automatically be provided up to 5 additional days off from school. They may return at any point once their symptoms subside.
6. **Quarantine Due to Exposure:** Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff will no longer quarantine if they are a close contact with a positive case on-site- as long as they do not experience symptoms. If an individual experiences symptoms after exposure they should stay home and seek medical guidance on the next steps.
 7. **Staff & Student Testing:** There is no longer any mandatory testing required by KIPP NYC or any other regulatory agency. Additionally, KIPP NYC (nor the DOE) provide COVID-19 tests to staff or students. Individuals who need tests can find free pick-up sites across NYC [HERE](#) while supplies last.
 8. **Staff Vaccination:** Staff are no longer required to be vaccinated for employment at KIPP NYC. That said, COVID-19 vaccination remains a key strategy for fighting COVID-19 and we will continue to promote vaccinations in our community and continue to regularly educate our community about the benefits of vaccination.
 9. **Face Coverings & Personal Protective Equipment:** After returning from a 5-day isolation period: 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.
 10. **KIPP NYC Visitors:** Visitors are welcome to enter KIPP NYC facilities and are not required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19.

If needed you can peruse additional guidance by clicking the link to the subject you would like to learn more about:

- Baseline prevention strategies
 - [Face coverings](#)
 - [Social Distancing](#)
 - [Healthy Hygiene](#)
 - [Daily Health Screening](#)
 - [Cleaning & Disinfecting](#)
 - [Room Ventilation](#)
 - [Isolation Room](#)
 - [Nurse Protocol](#)
 - [Visitor Policy](#)
 - [Family Meetings and School Events](#)
 - [New Staff Demo Lessons](#)
- School day procedures (e.g. student cohorts, recess, music class, etc)
 - [Meals and Space](#)
 - [Music Class Guidance](#)
 - [Recess and movement](#)
 - [Field trips](#)
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 - [After School](#)
- Response protocol (e.g. school closure triggers, student testing, student quarantine, etc)
 - [COVID-19 Testing](#)
 - [Test-to-Stay Strategy](#)
 - [Staff and Student Quarantine Requirements](#)
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BASELINE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Determined By</i>
Face coverings	<p>Face Coverings are optional for all KIPP NYC students and staff, indoors and outdoors, on NYC public school grounds and on school buses, with a few exceptions outlined below. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask may continue to do so.</p> <p>Instances where mask use is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are still required in these circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After returning from a 5-day isolation period: 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. ○ 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 in these circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Following an 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 10 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. ● To learn more about acceptable masks, please visit the CDCs Mask Guidance Page. 	NYC DOHMH
Social Distancing	There are no requirements for social distancing.	NYC DOHMH
Healthy Hygiene	To the best of your ability, schools should continue to promote handwashing and other healthy hygiene practices, including hand washing, proper sneeze and cough etiquette and promoting the cleaning of surfaces as needed.	NY State DOH
Daily Health Screening	While we are no longer using the daily health screener. All Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.	NY State DOH
Cleaning & Disinfecting	Teachers and students are encouraged to continue good habits about maintaining a clean environment throughout the school day. Additional cleaning of spaces will be added as needed.	NY State DOH
Room	Properly ventilated classrooms are key to school safety and while important, it	NY State DOH

<p>Ventilation</p>	<p>is only one part of a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy to keep our students, educators, and staff members safe inside and outside our schools. For the 22-23 SY building, ventilation maintenance will be conducted by the KIPP NYC Facilities Team every month.</p> <p>Schools should use a layered approach to room air ventilation (taking into account the room size, outside temperatures, etc.) that can include one or more techniques such as opening windows, adding HEPA filters (there is at least one in each classroom), opening doors, and turning on the Fan setting in in-class AC units. Please review the COVID Ventilation Guidance Document for more information - a few key updates are outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>School Building HVAC Statuses:</i> If your school is located in a DOE facility, you can check the status of the HVAC system by room by searching for your school on the DOE's Find a School Site, and then selecting and reviewing the Building Ventilation Information Tab. If you are in private space please speak with your CE. NOTE: All HVAC systems for KIPP facilities are operational. ● <i>Opening Windows in Classrooms:</i> Although having windows open allows for a great amount of natural airflow throughout the classroom, the exposure to cold enough air could cause other health risks for students and staff. Students/staff who have a history of asthma or other respiratory symptoms could be negatively impacted by the cold air coming in. Especially if they've done something physical, the cold air could compromise the airway and make it harder to breathe. Therefore, continue to think of opening windows as an option to increase ventilation based on the circumstances. When windows are closed, we should effectively be increasing the use of other air ventilation techniques. ● <i>Using AC Fan Settings:</i> Rooms that have ac units in the windows could benefit from outside air flow by having the fan setting on. This will introduce fresh air inside without the need of open windows. ● <i>Using a Purifier:</i> A well placed purifier would clean/filter the air. Having it placed on the opposite side of incoming airflow or in the center of the classroom when the path of airflow isn't constant. ● <i>Ceiling Fans / Fans:</i> According to the CDC, ceiling fans help improve air flow whether or not windows are open. Fans that point towards the ceiling will induce the same effect and will push airflow up to disperse air towards the outsides of the room. 	
<p>Visitor Policy</p>	<p>Visitors are welcomed to enter KIPP NYC facilities. Visitors are no longer required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19.</p>	<p>NY State DOH</p>
<p>Isolation Room</p>	<p>All schools should continue to identify a isolation room in the case of a positive case exposure or if a student/staff member becomes ill or shows symptoms of COVID-19. As was the policy in the 21-22 school year, this room does not need to be used solely as isolation space.</p>	<p>NYC DOHMH</p>

Nurse Protocol	Each school nurse's office must only be used to provide routine, wellness care unrelated to possible COVID-19 infection, e.g. asthma attacks, daily medications, cuts, scrapes, etc.	NYC DOHMH
Family Meetings and School Events	In person family events and school meetings are allowed. Please note visitors, including families, are no longer required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 enter our facilities.	NY State DOH

SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURES

Policy	Policy Description	Determined By
Meals and Space	KIPP NYC (and DOE) cafeterias have resumed normal meal service - without social distancing. All students will transition back to the cafeterias to participate in the meal service, as they did prior to the pandemic.	NY State DOH
Music Class Guidance	There is no distance requirement for music class, 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 continue to wear a mask for days 6-10.	NY State DOH
Recess and movement	Recess and movement classes are allowed to resume back to their pre-pandemic policies and capacity. Additionally, playground equipment can be used and to the extent possible we should continue to promote healthy hygiene practices.	NY State DOH
Field trips	Field trips including day trips and overnight trips are allowed. Please note you may be required to follow the COVID-19 vaccination rules that an external organization has provided - please verify those requirements prior to booking with an outside organization.	NY State DOH DOE Guidance
Transportation	Buses can operate at full capacity.	DOE Guidance
Team Sports	High Risk Sports All sports including High Risk sports across KIPP NYC are allowed. There are no longer any vaccination or testing requirements for Students who wish to participate in high risk sports.	NY State DOH
After School	All regular after school programming should resume as normal and will continue to take place in person.	DOHMH & DYCD

RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Determined By</i>
COVID-19 Testing	There is no longer any mandatory testing required by KIPP NYC or any other regulatory agency. We will continue to review this strategy over time and could make changes based on any updated guidance.	KIPP NYC
Test-to-Stay Strategy	Please note that neither the DOE or KIPP NYC will participate in the previous test-to-stay strategy. This strategy was discontinued in SY22-23.	DOHMH / DOE
Staff and Student Quarantine Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The isolation period for ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS who test positive for COVID-19 is currently five days. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If you had no symptoms <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Day 0 is the day you were tested (not the day you received your positive test result) 4. Day 1 is the first full day following the day you were tested iii. If you had symptoms <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset, regardless of when you tested positive 2. Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started 2. Student & Staff - Close Contact Quarantine: Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff will no longer quarantine if they are a close contact with a positive case on-site- as long as they do not experience symptoms and participate in the test-to-stay strategy outlined above. 3. ALL STAFF & ALL STUDENTS - Isolation Period for Positive Test The isolation period has changed from 10 days to 5 days. Staff and Students who test positive can return on Day 6 following a positive COVID test. This is contingent upon the staff member or student feeling well enough to return to the school. 4. External COVID Exposures outside of KIPP NYC: Quarantine is not required for asymptomatic staff or students who have been exposed to COVID-19. 5. Quarantine Travel Requirements: Quarantine is not required following domestic or international travel. All travelers, domestic and international, should follow all CDC travel recommendations, which include a recommendation to be fully vaccinated before travel and, if not fully vaccinated, to quarantine following travel. 6. Staff with Household Members Who Test Positive: Quarantine is not required for fully vaccinated and asymptomatic staff members whose children or household members test positive. 	NYC DOHMH

<p>Close Contact Definition</p>	<p>Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff will no longer quarantine if they are a close contact with a positive case on-site- as long as they do not experience symptoms. If an individual experiences symptoms after an exposure they should stay home and seek medical guidance on the next steps. Neither the DOE nor KIPP NYC will participate in the previous test-to-stay strategy.</p>	<p>NYC DOHMH</p>
<p>Situation Room Room Updates</p>	<p>Situation Room updates will still be sent to the Situation Room by the School Operations Team via their online intake form [apps.nycenet.edu].</p> <p>Note that all positive test results will be accepted as valid, including results from PCR, rapid, or at-home kit tests. For more information see the Situation Room InfoHub page [infohub.nyced.org]</p>	<p>DOE Guidance</p>
<p>Individuals Recovered from COVID-19 in the Last 90 Days</p>	<p>Students or staff who have recovered from a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 90 days do not have to quarantine or test following an exposure unless they show COVID symptoms. Students or staff who have recovered from a confirmed case of COVID within the past 90 days should not receive at-home test kits following exposure and should not participate in school-based PCR testing.</p>	<p>NYC DOHMH</p>