



KIPP NYC Health and Safety Policies Summary

KIPP NYC's Health and Safety Policies and Procedures will remain centered on the core prevention strategies we implemented in January 2021 with some baseline changes as we prepare for 100% capacity of in-person learning in our schools.

KIPP NYC is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community amid ongoing health challenges. Aligning with city, state, and federal guidelines, our policies aim to balance necessary safety measures with the maintenance of a supportive learning environment. This document provides a succinct overview of our health and safety protocols as we continue to adapt to the evolving situation.

Contact Tracing & Communications

KIPP NYC has updated its approach to no longer require mandatory contact tracing or communication for each case in schools, aligning with NYC DOE and DOHMH guidelines. This new protocol empowers individual schools to manage case tracking effectively.

COVID Response & Data Monitoring

The dedicated COVID-19 response team has been replaced with a new system where each school is responsible for COVID-19 case tracking, streamlining support and issue resolution within our network.

Handling A Case

For any positive case, the protocol involves sending the individual home, determining a return date based on health guidelines, and tracking the case internally as well as in the UKG system for staff.

Quarantine/Isolation Time

The isolation period has been reduced to five days. Detailed guidelines are provided for determining the return to school or work date based on symptom onset and testing dates.



Testing and Vaccination Policies

Mandatory testing has been discontinued, and while vaccination is not required for employment, it remains a critical strategy for prevention. KIPP NYC continues to promote vaccination benefits.

Face Coverings & PPE

Post-isolation, the requirement is to wear masks through Day 10. Additionally, masks are required in medical rooms and recommended following exposure to ensure safety on school property.

Visitor Policy

Visitors are now welcome without proof of vaccination, reflecting our commitment to maintaining an accessible and safe environment for our community.

This document provides an outline of our policies which are outlined below. A yellow highlight indicates that a policy has been updated recently.

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We understand the importance of providing clear and evidence-based guidance, and we also know through our experience that we exist in an evolving and ever-changing environment. We are grateful for your continued partnership, patience and flexibility as we navigate this together.

This document will be updated regularly throughout the 2021-2022 school year as we receive new information and revised city, state or federal guidance.

BASELINE PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Policy	Description	Determined By
Face coverings	<p>We are requiring all staff to wear KN95 masks while in school buildings until further notice given their increased efficacy (more info here). If staff have N95 masks or KF94 masks, those are acceptable as well. This requirement should also be followed for small group and one-on-one meetings (even among staff who are all vaccinated). This includes all outdoor school activities including recess and field trips.</p> <p>We are looking into acquiring KN95 masks for our students and giving them the option to wear them (we'll keep you posted on when they arrive)</p> <p>To learn more about acceptable masks, please visit the CDCs Mask Guidance Page. Surgical masks will be made available to all schools and schools can request KN95 masks from the facilities team if needed.</p>	KIPP NYC
Social Distancing	<p>Staff and students should adhere to <u>6 feet social distancing</u> at all times, except for specific situations as noted below, or communicated to you by your School Operations Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may be distanced apart by 3 feet while seated in classrooms ● Staff and students may be distanced by 3 feet for outdoor activities (recess, sports, etc) <p>Adults should always attempt to maintain 6 feet between other adults and students.</p>	NY State DOH
Healthy Hygiene	<p>Staff/students must wash or sanitize their hands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upon entrance to the school building ● Before and after eating or handling food ● After coming in contact with bodily fluids ● After handling garbage ● Before and after using shared equipment or supplies ● After restroom use ● When hands may be visibly soiled 	NY State DOH

<p>Daily Health Screening</p>	<p>All students, staff and visitors will need to submit a daily health survey. 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.</p> <p>Daily temperature checks will only be conducted for staff, students and visitors that have <u>not completed a daily health screen</u> prior to arriving on campus. If a temperature check is required, anyone who has a temperature that falls below 100.4 will be able to enter the school building.</p>	<p>NY State DOH</p>
<p>Cleaning & Disinfecting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KIPP NYC will work with the NYC Department of Education to ensure daily cleaning/ sanitizing of all used spaces. ● At night, our buildings will be disinfected using electrostatic machines. ● KIPP NYC will provide spray cleaner and paper towels for schools to distribute to classrooms to ensure adequate supply of cleaning materials. <p>Teachers and students are encouraged to continue good habits about maintaining a clean environment throughout the school day, while also knowing that this additional layer of cleaning will be added on each night.</p>	<p>NY State DOH</p>
<p>Room Ventilation</p>	<p>Properly ventilated classrooms are key to school safety and while important, it is only one part of a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy to keep our students, educators, and staff members safe inside and outside our schools. As always, we use ventilation considerations in conjunction with other actions, such as wearing a face covering, social distancing, frequent hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are touched a lot.</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 	<p>NY State DOH</p>

	<p>ventilation techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <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. 	
Visitor Policy	<p>Schools should continue to limit nonessential visitors coming into the building during the school day. Schools are encouraged, where possible, to address visitor and parent concerns by phone or computer.</p> <p>In order to protect staff and students in our buildings, all visitors wishing to enter KIPP NYC (or DOE) school buildings must show proof of having at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, any visitor to the building must show identification, complete the daily health screening and wear a face covering at all times while on school property.</p> <p>Exceptions to the visitor vaccine mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visitors do not include students attending school in a DOE building, including adult students participating in D79, YABC, or DYCD programs. ● Any guardian needing to register their student for school may enter the building without showing proof of vaccination ● Any individual seeking to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at a DOE vaccine site. ● Delivery personnel may enter the building to place items in a designated area without showing proof of vaccination. ● A guardian responding to a student's medical emergency or crisis. ● Individuals responding to an emergency, including police, fire, emergency medical services personnel, and others who need to enter the building to respond to or pick up a student experiencing an emergency. 	NY State DOH
Isolation Room	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.	NYC DOHMH
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	We are suggesting no in person PD, large gatherings, meetings, events, school assemblies/performances, etc until further	NY State DOH

Meetings and School Events	notice.	
New Staff Demo Lessons	As of 11/1, schools are allowed to host in-person interviews with new staff candidates, however, these candidates must meet the visitor guidelines outlined above. That said, new staff candidates must be fully vaccinated to enter the building and the school must collect proof of both shots in advance of the demo lesson.	KIPP NYC

SCHOOL DAY PROCEDURES

Policy	Policy Description	Determined By
Student Cohorts	<p>Student cohorting is not required and staff/teachers do not need to stay with a particular cohort (i.e. - departmentalized teachers can rotate among classes/grades), however, schools can choose to implement cohorting if feasible.</p> <p>That said, in order to contact trace students and staff effectively, schools must ensure that they keep accurate records of who students and staff come in contact with and which classrooms/spaces they may have entered.</p>	NY State DOH
Meals and Space	<p>All students/staff will adhere to 6 ft distancing during meals. Meals may take place in the cafeteria, assuming distancing requirements can be followed. For schools that are unable to fit all of their students in the cafeteria, our discussions with the DOE seem to indicate that there will be cold meals in classrooms and other areas throughout the building.</p>	NY State DOH
Music Class Guidance	<p>Individuals participating in activities that require voice projection (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument must be 6 feet apart and there must be 6 feet of distance between the performers. Students/staff should wear masks while singing.</p> <p>Note that music that does not require voice/breathing projection can be done at 3 feet (with masks on), such as playing string or percussion instruments.</p>	NY State DOH
Recess and movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground equipment can be used • Students and staff should sanitize their hands before and after the use of shared equipment 	NY State DOH
Field trips	<p>We still strongly urge you to cancel any field trips in January. No indoor field trips are allowed for now. However, if you'd like to proceed with outdoor field trips, they are allowed, but please consult with SST Ops to discuss best practices around health & safety. We've updated the OL/DOO slides to reflect a change that allows for some field trips.</p>	NY State DOH DOE Guidance
Transportation	<p>Buses can operate at full capacity, with students and staff fully masked.</p> <p>COVID Cases on School Buses - Schools should work with bus companies to arrange for assigned seating on buses to facilitate identifying close contacts. From the information we currently have close contacts on buses will also be able to</p>	DOE Guidance

	use the test to stay strategy moving forward.	
Materials Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimize sharing of high-touch materials ● Coat hook and locker use is permitted ● Books do not need to be “quarantined” in between uses. ● Elementary School Carpets are now allowed to be used in schools. Operations teams should ensure that all carpets can be adequately cleaned as part of their use. Additionally, all other health and safety guidance needs to be followed when students are using carpets. 	NY State DOH
Team Sports	<p>We are currently evaluating guidance on whether we need to pause high-risk sports and other activities and/or add more health and safety measures. But if sports continue, games will be held without spectators. Until we learn more, with the exception of excluding spectators, please continue to follow the sports guidance identified below.</p> <p>Based on NY State’s phased reopening plan and requirements outlined in the NY State Sports Master Guidance, KIPP NYC has provided the following guidance for Recreation and Sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All K-12 levels of sport (low/moderate/high risk) are permitted (details of each category can be found in the guidance linked below). All level of play (practice, drills, games, tournaments, etc) are permitted, however, schools must adhere to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>For all outdoor sports:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Staff and students must be fully masked if the core activity requires a distance less than 6 feet. ■ If distanced 6 ft or more during the sports activity, then masks may be removed ■ For all times when the core activity is not occurring, masks must be worn by all staff/students. ○ <i>For all indoor sports, all staff and students must be fully masked at all times</i> ○ <i>Capacity Limit:</i> Indoor sporting events are limited to no more than 50% capacity in a given indoor space, and no more than 200 people total in an outdoor venue. These capacity restrictions are inclusive of staff, participants. NEW: External event attendees are not permitted until further notice. ○ <i>Cleaning and Disinfecting:</i> At a minimum, schools must rigorously clean and disinfect any shared equipment between games. <p>Please review the student vaccination guidelines for extracurricular activities and high risk sports.</p>	NY State DOH
After School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All programming will be taking place in person ● At full capacity allotted to each school and maintaining a 15:1 student/teacher ratio ● Programs will follow day school health and safety guidelines and protocols 	DOHMH & DYCD


<p>Remote Learning Continuity & Remote School</p>	<p>Remote School: We are currently assessing our resources to work towards extending the remote school for the small number of medically exempt students through February break. We will keep you posted as soon as we know more.</p> <p>Preparing for Potential Remote Closures: We are maintaining 1:1 technology across KIPP NYC should we need students to access asynchronous work and online platforms from home for an extended period of time. To learn more about teacher and school expectations please read the Instructional Guidance for School Closure/Quarantine document that will be provided during PD.</p>	<p>KIPP NYC</p>
<p>Student Attendance Policy</p>	<p>Daily student attendance will resume as normal, with students being marked as absent if they are not physically present in school, with the following exception:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If students are required to quarantine due to exposure and/or a positive COVID-19 test, they will have the opportunity to participate in asynchronous learning and will be marked as Remote Attendance Present (REP). This will be determined by student daily login to Canvas. 	<p>KIPP NYC <i>(pending guidance from NYC DOE or NYS)</i></p>

RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Determined By</i>
<p>After Winter Break Testing Expectations</p>	<p>Staff/Student Testing: Below is a recap of the staff/student testing guidelines for the week of January 3.</p> <p>a. Monday (Regional Testing site at CPHS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Families can still register until Sunday night using this link and this code: 47jsk (We already have close to 600 sign-ups!) Families will receive an email from SST Ops with instructions and the address of the location. We will accommodate walk-ins, but families who walk-in will need to wait in the walk-in line which may be a longer wait than those who made a reservation. ii. We will update trackers (link here to school trackers) in real time with the barcodes of each student as they show up (so you know who doesn't need to get tested at your school on Tuesday) and we will then update the trackers once results come in. Results will continue to be pooled by school giving you direct access to any potential positive students. <p>b. Tuesday Testing at Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Test staff first thing in the morning (and send samples to the lab ASAP). ii. Test all students who show up on Tuesday (make sure to send families info on logistics and remind them that if we don't reach out to them after they submit a test, that means their test was negative). iii. If siblings show up at your school, please try to accommodate those families if possible and coordinate with the other school's DOO iv. Do not wait until the end of day to messenger samples so that the lab can start processing some samples ASAP. If possible, send one set of samples mid-day and the other set of samples end of day. <p>b. Thursday/Friday Student Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Plan to test all students Thursday/Friday who did not test on Tuesday. If you will not be able to pull this off logistically, please inform your MD + RDSO. We have limited regional staffing resources we can deploy as needed. ii. One option to handle a large volume of testing on Thursday (e.g. you have hundreds of students to test) is to send the tests home with students on Thursday and collect them Friday morning. 	<p>KIPP NYC</p>
<p>COVID-19</p>	<p>Beginning January 10, every school should increase their weekly testing totals to 25% of all students and staff.</p>	<p>KIPP NYC</p>

<p>Testing</p>	<p>The testing program is voluntary. As such, there is no process for requesting an exemption. Families that feel their child cannot participate in testing for medical- or disability-based reasons should note that their child will not participate. That said, failure to participate in some or all testing programs could require quarantine for some students.</p>	
<p>Return to School Criteria (Test-to-Stay Strategy)</p>	<p>TEST TO STAY: Following CDC guidance, KIPP NYC will follow a test-to-stay strategy. In practice, this means that if there is a positive case in a classroom, students who were in close proximity to a positive student will no longer have to quarantine and will continue attending school <u>as long as they do not have symptoms and continue to receive negative results from an at-home rapid test.</u></p> <p>So how would this work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Day 1: All students and staff who share a classroom with someone who tests positive will be notified and instructed to use the rapid test-kit they were given to keep at home. ● Day 1: Student takes rapid test #1 at home once notified of a classroom exposure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Negative</u> result: Student continues coming to school as long as the rapid test is negative and as long as they don't start having any symptoms ○ <u>Positive</u> result: If the test is positive, you should notify the school immediately and stay home from school until the school gives you instructions on when your student can return (typically, 10 days later). ● Days 2-4*: Student continues coming to school (if they have no symptoms and if the first rapid test is negative) ● Day 5: Student takes rapid test #2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Negative</u> result: Student continues coming to school as long as the rapid test is negative and as long as they don't start having any symptoms ○ <u>Positive</u> result: If the test is positive, you should notify the school immediately and stay home from school until the school gives you instructions on when your student can return (typically, 10 days later). <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>*If a student starts having symptoms anytime in Days 2-4, student immediately takes Test #2.</i></p> <p>Overall: Students who <u>don't</u> exhibit symptoms and <u>don't</u> test positive will continue to attend school. Close contacts need to provide proof of their negative rapid test in order to return to in person learning (we will provide you with instructions on how to submit your results).</p> <p>If symptoms develop at any time, students should take a test immediately and quarantine. Any positive test result should be reported to the school immediately.</p>	<p>DOHMH / DOE</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fewer quarantines: this policy will result in fewer quarantines because unvaccinated students who are close contacts no longer have to quarantine as long as they don't start exhibiting symptoms and as long as they receive a negative rapid test result on day 1 and day 5 of exposure. 2. More testing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. New: All students and staff who are in a classroom with a positive case will get a rapid test to take on day 1 and day 5 (or earlier if they start exhibiting symptoms). We are still determining whether it is worth the logistical challenge of collecting <i>proof</i> of negative results. We can easily provide schools with a google form that families can upload results to, but not all families will comply and if we require it, DOO's will end up needing to follow up and read/interpret every result that's submitted. Please email us your thoughts on this. We are working regionally to find a way to support schools with this process (e.g. sending automated emails/texts reminding families to take the test on day 1 and day 5). b. New: All students <i>and staff</i> who are at school and start exhibiting symptoms will be sent home with two rapid tests. (Students and staff cannot attend school until they receive negative results on both of these home tests taken within 24 hours of each other and have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication OR if they receive a negative test result from a PCR COVID test.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. For example, staff or students are at school Monday and exhibit symptoms in the afternoon. ii. They get sent home with two rapid tests: one to take that same day (at home) and one to take the next day, Tuesday, at home. iii. If both tests come back negative and if the individual is symptom free for 24 hours, they come back to school on Wednesday. <p>**TBD: We may use our mirimus testing as part of the test-to-stay policy either to supplement the rapid tests above or in lieu of some rapid tests if we are running low on supplies.</p>	
<p>Staff and Student Quarantine Requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (NEW) Student & Staff - Close Contact Quarantine: Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff will no longer quarantine if they are a close contact of a positive case - as long as they do not experience symptoms and participate in the test to stay strategy outlined above. 	<p>NYC DOHMH</p>

	<p>2. (NO CHANGE) Students & Unvaccinated Staff - Isolation Period for Positive Test: Isolation periods for students who test positive are unchanged and are still 10 days long (return on day 11). No negative test is required to return to school after a 10 day isolation. (new: they will get two rapid tests to take home as explained above).</p> <p>3. (NEW, effective today, December 31) Fully Vaccinated School Based Staff - Isolation Period for Positive Test: For those staff members who are fully vaccinated, the isolation period has changed from 10 days to 5 days. Teachers and school-based staff who are fully vaccinated may now return to work on Day 6 after testing positive for COVID-19 under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Per State guidance, the positive teacher/school-based staff member must be asymptomatic OR have mild symptoms only: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. They must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication; ii. They must not have a runny nose; and/or, iii. They must have a minimal cough only, cannot be coughing up phlegm. iv. Symptoms must be improving or mild. <p>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 prior to travel and, if not fully vaccinated, to quarantine following travel.</p>	
<p>COVID Response Steps</p>	 <pre> graph TD A[Receive COVID Case Notification & takes initial safety actions] --> B[School leaders notify COVID Response Team] B --> C[COVID Response Team conducts contact tracing] C --> D[COVID Response Team and Regional Leadership determine decisions on quarantine, closures, and execution next steps] D --> E[Leaders, COVID Response Team, and our contact tracer communicate with all involved individuals] E --> F[Leaders, COVID Response Team, and our contact tracer continue to follow-up and monitor the situation] </pre>	<p>NY State DOH</p>
<p>COVID Test Lab</p>	<p>As many of you know, Mirimus no longer partners with Meenta in order to get individual test results. Please discontinue using the Meenta portal.</p>	<p>KIPP NYC</p>

	<p>Instead, when trying to get an individual result Ops, Staff, and families should use the Mirimus Test Retrieval Link in order to get their individual result.</p>	
<p>Student Vaccination Requirements</p>	<p>As of Tuesday, January 4 - all students ages 5 through 11 who wish to participate in high-risk sports must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Winter and spring participants have until the beginning of their season to be fully vaccinated. High risk sports are competitive sports are football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, lacrosse, stunt, and rugby. Vaccination is also required for participation in bowling, because while not a high-risk sport, it takes place in spaces that require vaccination for children ages five and up.</p> <p>A COVID-19 vaccination requirement also applies to students participating in high-risk after school extracurricular activities like chorus, musical theater, dance/dance team, band/orchestra (with concern for woodwinds), marching band, cheerleading/step teams/flag team. Students ages five and up must be vaccinated in order to participate in these extracurricular activities. This will affect all DYCD funded programs, sports teams, and general after school activities held by the day schools.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE: KIPP is denoting a start date of this policy as of 1/4/21, however, this policy is set to begin citywide as of 12/14. Given that our Winter Break starts earlier, for students ages 5-11 participating in fall sports next week, we will work with our DYCD Program Directors and KING to ensure that there is alternate programming for families to participate in if needed.</p>	<p>NYSDOH</p>
<p>Student Vaccination Status Collection</p>	<p>For those students who may be vaccinated, KIPP NYC has developed a system where families can voluntarily upload student vaccination records. Currently this collection tool has only been made to students 12 years or older. We will provide additional information on the voluntary collection of vaccination records for students ages 5-11.</p>	<p>KIPP NYC</p>
<p>Close Contact Definition</p>	<p>A close contact is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes over a 24-hour period of someone who has COVID-19 during their infectious period, regardless of face mask use or the presence of plexiglass or other barriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exception: Per NYS guidance, in the classroom setting, students sitting 3 to 6 feet from a student with COVID-19 will not be considered close contacts and therefore do not need to quarantine, as long as the student with COVID-19 wore masks correctly and consistently. This exception applies only to students and not to staff. 	<p>NYC DOHMH</p>

	<p>Principals/DOOs will consult with teachers about cases in their classrooms when they are unaware of seating arrangements or mask compliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult to Student Close Contacts: Any student or adult who was within six feet of an adult with COVID-19 for more than ten minutes regardless of wearing a face covering is considered a close contact. ● Note: <i>Students or staff identified as close contacts do not have to quarantine provided regardless of vaccination status as long as they participate in the test to stay policy.(detailed above)</i> ● Large Spaces: In a large space, people who are within six feet of the positive case are close contacts, regardless of masking, even when the case is a student. Only people who meet this definition should be placed on the close contact list. If it cannot be determined who was within six feet, include the smallest group of students which is likely to have been within six feet on the close contact list. ● School Buses: When there is a confirmed positive case on a school bus, the entire bus ridership, driver, and attendant will no longer automatically be considered close contacts. If it is possible to identify people who are within six (6) feet of a positive case for at least 10 minutes, only those people will need to be quarantined. When it is not possible to determine close contacts on the bus, all unvaccinated students will need to quarantine. <p>Other people may be considered close contacts in certain situations, such as when physical distance cannot be consistently monitored or maintained (such as on the school bus, younger children who are unable to remain 6 feet apart and wear masks, and during some sports and recreational activities).</p>	
<p>Closure Triggers and Escalations</p>	<p>FYI - The DOE is revisiting the 2% case closure rule and closure triggers overall - below is the last update we have received.</p> <p>For the 2021–2022 school year, the Situation Room thresholds for school-wide investigations to determine whether there is widespread transmission in a school have been updated to reflect the changing COVID-19 landscape in New York City.</p> <p>The criteria for school-wide investigations will be determined based on the size of the student body, the number of confirmed cases in the past seven (7) days, and the locations in the school building where the cases are found. The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether there is widespread transmission of COVID-19 within the school community. Schools under investigation will remain open until the conclusion of the investigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The following thresholds are guidelines for the Situation Room to determine whether to conduct a school-wide investigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools with 200 students or fewer: at least four (4) confirmed cases; ○ Schools with between 201 and 1,000 students: confirmed cases of at least 2 percent of the enrolled student body; 	<p>NYC DOHMH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools with greater than 1,000 students: at least 20 confirmed cases. 	
<p>Situation Room Room Updates</p>	<p>The DOE Situation Room regular weekday hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the Situation Room is closed on Saturdays. Sunday hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>In observance of upcoming holidays in November and December, the COVID Response Situation Room hours are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuesday, November 2 (Election Day): Regular weekday hours; ● Thursday, November 11 (Veteran’s Day): Regular weekday hours; ● Thursday, November 25 (Thanksgiving): Closed; ● Friday, November 26: Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; ● Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve): Closed ● Monday, December 27–Thursday, December 30 (Winter Recess): Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays; ● Friday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve): Closed. 	<p>DOE Guidance</p>