

SY23-24 KIPP NYC Health and Safety Family Summary

Dear KIPP NYC Families,

As part of our ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our students, staff, and community, we are writing to inform you of the latest updates to our Health and Safety Policies for SY23-24. These adjustments are reflective of the latest public health guidance and our continuous effort to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for all. Please find below a look at key policies for the coming year and a detailed overview of the key policy updates.

1. Enhanced Contact Tracing & COVID Monitoring

We have adapted our approach to contact tracing and COVID monitoring, with each school now taking direct responsibility. This decentralized model will enable faster responses to any reported cases, ensuring the safety and well-being of our school communities.

2. Revised Case Management Protocols

In the event of a positive COVID-19 case, immediate action will be taken to send the individual home and determine a safe return date, based on the latest health guidelines. Our priority is to mitigate any potential transmission and maintain a healthy school environment.

3. Updated Quarantine and Isolation Requirements

Following new health advisories, the isolation period for confirmed COVID-19 cases has been updated to five days. We provide clear guidelines for return based on symptom resolution and testing outcomes, ensuring the safety of our entire community.

4. Adapted Testing and Vaccination Policies

Recognizing the changing landscape of COVID-19 prevention, mandatory testing protocols have been discontinued. While vaccination remains a crucial tool against COVID-19, it is not a condition for school attendance or employment, aligning with our inclusive policies.

5. Revised Face Covering and PPE Use

Our updated guidelines provide clarity on mask-wearing post-isolation and encourage mask use in certain scenarios for added protection. We remain committed to following the best practices for health and safety.

6. Visitor Policy Adjustments

Our schools are now more accessible to visitors, with no requirement for proof of COVID-19 vaccination. This change is part of our effort to maintain an open and welcoming environment, while still prioritizing the health and safety of our community.

Conclusion

We appreciate your cooperation and support as we implement these changes. Our goal is to ensure the continued safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families. For any questions or further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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

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- School day procedures (e.g. student cohorts, recess, music class, etc)
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- Response protocol (e.g. school closure triggers, student testing, student quarantine, etc)
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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	<u>High Risk Sports</u> 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"> 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 <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>