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Subject: EASTERN
Date: Friday, December 31, 2021 1:26:29 PM



Dear EASTERN Families,

I hope you have enjoyed the holiday break. We look forward to seeing our students Monday January 3rd at EASTERN for in-person instruction. Our understanding is that all of our schools will be in session for in-person instruction. As you prepare your children to return to school, I want to update you on changes in the guidance provided by Montgomery County's Office of Public Health and to reaffirm our protocols.

We will continue our universal masking and distancing policy as outlined in our Health and Safety Plan. If your child is symptomatic, please do not send them to school. Please have them tested. Any COVID-related absences, including pending test results, close contacts with someone who tested positive, and/or positive cases should be reported to your high school and EASTERN's covid email: covid@eastech.org. Regular absences should be reported to attendance@eastech.org.

Please keep in mind the guidance we receive changes as new information emerges. The current guidance as of 12/31 changes the definition of a fully-vaccinated person and decreases the quarantine and isolation periods. A fully vaccinated person must have also received a booster if their last dose of the vaccine was longer than 6 months ago. Children who were vaccinated within the past six months without a booster are still considered fully vaccinated. The wording on the School Exclusion document is a little misleading and a newer version will come out on Monday to correct the language.

Students who test positive must isolate for 5 days after the onset of symptoms and in the absence of symptoms, 5 days after the test was administered. The day of the onset of symptoms or test count as day zero. They may return to school on day 6 if they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) and their symptoms have resolved. They should continue to wear a mask and distance for the next five days.

- Students who are close contacts and are fully vaccinated and not symptomatic do not need to quarantine.

- Students who are close contacts and are fully vaccinated but develop symptoms must quarantine for 5 days.
- Students who are close contacts are not fully vaccinated (with or without symptoms) must quarantine for 5 days.

Remember, the date of exposure or onset of symptoms counts as day zero. Please refer to the attached guidance for more information. [12.31.21 School Exclusion Guide.pdf](#)

Happy New Year,

Cathleen Plesnarski, Ed. D.

Executive Director
