**This letter provides guidance for staff or students who test positive for Covid-19, or who are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.**

Dear Member of the **William E. Grady Career and Technical Education High School** at **25 Brighton 4th Road** Community:

In this letter you will find information about when students and staff can return to school after experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. This guidance reflects the expertise of the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the New York City Department of Education (DOE) and the NYC Test + Trace Corps (T2).

**When Is It Safe to Return to the School Building?**

Any student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school only after:

* Isolating for 10 days **AND**
* Being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication **AND**
* Is experiencing overall improvement in symptoms

Please note:

* For people with symptoms, the infectious period generally begins two days before symptoms start and continues for ten days from when symptoms begin.
* For people with no symptoms (asymptomatic), the infectious period is estimated to begin two days before COVID-19 testing to ten days after testing.
* A person may continue to receive a positive COVID-19 test result for up to three months even though they are no longer infectious.

If a student or staff member showed symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19, they can return to school only after:

* Being fever free 24 hours without the use of medication **AND**
* Overall symptoms are improving

If a student or staff member did not get tested for COVID-19 but showed symptoms, they can return to school only after:

* At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started **AND**
* They have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication **AND**
* Overall symptoms are improving

If a student or staff member is considered a close contact of an individual who has tested positive, and is experiencing no COVID-19 symptoms, they can return to school only:

* After quarantining for 10 days since their last exposure to the case OR

If they are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 OR were recently (within the past three months) diagnosed with COVID-19 and finished isolation in the past 90 days. To be considered fully vaccinated by CDC guidelines, two weeks must have passed since you received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks must have passed since you received a single-dose vaccine.

* Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and who are considered close contacts may test out of quarantine to return to their classrooms on the eighth day of quarantine . In order to do so, students should take a lab-administered COVID-19 test on or after their fifth day of quarantine to re-enter class on the eighth day. Students must submit proof of a negative lab test through the [DOE’s COVID-19 Vaccination Portal](https://vaccine.schools.nyc/) or by submitting the result to the school on paper or electronically.
* Close contacts who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 must isolate, even if they are fully vaccinated.

**Once you have recovered from symptoms, get vaccinated.**

As of September 27, 2021, all DOE employees, as well as DOE/City contractors in DOE buildings, are required to provide proof that they have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. If you have received only the first dose of a 2-dose vaccine as of September 27, 2021, you are expected to receive the 2nd dose within 45 days of the first dose to remain compliant, according to the order issued by the Commissioner of Health. You must submit proof of vaccination using the [DOE’s Vaccination Portal](https://vaccine.schools.nyc/).

All New Yorkers age 5 or older are eligible to be vaccinated for COVID-19. If someone is fully vaccinated, they do not have to miss school, sports or work if there is a case in their classroom. People who are between 5 and 17 years old are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine only; all older ages are eligible for all three vaccines. Find a vaccine site today at<https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>. There is no cost to be vaccinated.

**How can I stay updated?**

To help New Yorkers quarantine, the NYC Test + Trace Corps partners with community-based organizations to connect individuals to resources like food, medicine, and health care. To connect with resources, you can call **1-212-COVID19 (212-268-4319).**

For additional information on COVID-19, visit [schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus](http://schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus) or call 311.

Thank you for your cooperation. Health and safety will always come first in New York City public schools, no matter what.

Sincerely,

Tarah Montalbano