

BACK TO SCHOOL MEMO TO NHPS FAMILIES

UPDATED 9.22.22

Welcome back NHPS families! The New Haven Health Department continues to work together with the Board of Education to help keep students and staff healthy. This memo reviews health policies for the 2022-23 school year including the new COVID-19 Test, Mask, Go initiative and ways to stay healthy and safe this school year. Also look for the “What to Know About Monkeypox” memo!

COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Effective August 11, 2022, CDC no longer requires that individuals exposed to COVID-19 quarantine. New Haven Public Schools and New Haven Health Department will no longer contact trace every case and exposure. Instead, we will monitor schools and provide support and guidance to schools with increased numbers of cases, clusters or outbreaks and as needed. Please keep in mind the following:

- Schools are mask friendly! Masks are optional but students with cold symptoms should wear masks indoors. New Haven Health Department follows CDC Community Level measures and may recommend indoor masking if cases increase in New Haven County.
- Check your child each day for symptoms. If your child does not feel well, do not send them to school! Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, overly tired, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Test! If your child has any of the above symptoms, test them immediately. If they have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, check them each day for symptoms and have them test on or after Day 5. Please contact your Building Leader or Nurse for rapid antigen test kits.
- Report cases. If your child has COVID-19, do not send them to school! Contact your Building Leader or Nurse.
- Keep sick children home. If your child has COVID-19, keep them home for at least five days. They can return with a negative test or if symptoms have improved or their symptoms are gone and they do not have fever without the use of a fever reducing medicine. They should wear a mask through Day 10.
- Stay up to date on your vaccines! Check for vaccine clinics at New Haven COVID Hub: <https://covid19.newhavenct.gov>
- Use prevention strategies. Handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing as necessary and keeping the air circulating.
- Stay up to date on COVID-19 information.
Check out our COVID Hub at <https://covid19.newhavenct.gov>
and COVID-19 in school information at <https://www.nhps.net/coronavirus>



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION IN K-12 SCHOOLS AND CSDE COVID-19 RESOURCES](#)

WHAT IS TEST, MASK, GO?

Test, Mask, Go is a program to help keep students in school and learning. It can also help the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of students, staff, and their families and learning recovery.

School administrators and/or nurses will record students who are eligible to participate based on the information below.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN TEST, MASK, GO?

Students and staff with mild cold symptoms (e.g., infrequent cough, congestion, runny nose, sore throat, etc.) can stay in school if they:

- Are fever-free ($< 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) without a fever-reducing medication,
- Feel well enough to participate,
- Do not live with anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks,
- Can wear a mask consistently and correctly, and
- Test for COVID-19 each day before going to school when they have symptoms as well as one final test on the morning symptoms have stopped.

WHO CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN TEST, MASK, GO?

Individuals with cold symptoms should not use Test, Mask, Go if they:

- Have a fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) or feel feverish (they should not report in-person until their fever has resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of medication)
- Live with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 2 weeks

Instead, these individuals should stay home until their symptoms resolve and test for COVID-19.

Follow [CDC Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19](#).

SUBMIT PHYSICAL EXAMS AND IMMUNIZATIONS BY 9/30/22!

Be sure your student has up to date physical exam and immunization forms for their current grade or last mandated grade. (Mandated grades are preK, K, 7th and 10th grade.) See NHPS previous communications for more detail.

QUESTION OR CONCERNS?

If so, please contact New Haven Health Department at 203-946-6999

Wishing everyone a happy, health school year!