



## KENT ACADEMY

Dear Kent Families & Staff,

We want to make you aware of changes to the [StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit](#). The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) updated the toolkit on Dec. 30 with COVID-19 isolation and quarantine guidance that is aligned to the most recent information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Research is showing that the majority of new COVID-19 cases are caused by the [omicron variant](#).

**Note: Previous infection within 90 days and positive antibody results are no longer an exemption from quarantine.**

You will find our updated Covid policy attached, which is subject to change based on current metrics and CDC guidance. We understand that this is the time of year where many students are sick from common colds, and the flu. For this reason we will be implementing a very clear Wellness policy. If students are found to have 2 or more symptoms below, parents will be called to pick them up from school and students will need to remain home until symptoms have cleared. If students are out with illness for 3 or more days they will need to return with a doctor's note. The symptoms are as follows:

- Cough
- Headache
- Runny Nose/Congestion/Sneezing
- Sore Throat
- Body Chills
- Fatigue

Additionally students need to be fever and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. We are aware that many students have allergies or suffer from headaches, which is why we are looking at 2 or more symptoms. Please help us by keeping your students home if you notice they are ill. Kent teachers are prepared to ensure every student can continue instruction virtually if they need to be absent due to illness.

If you have further questions, please contact Kent Academy



## KENT ACADEMY COVID POLICY

### Updated Policy based on Guidance:

1. Staff and students who have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status should – get tested and isolate from others while waiting for a result. If testing is not possible, follow the guidance below as if the person is positive.
2. Isolation: Staff and students who test positive], and
  - Do not have symptoms – should isolate from others for 5 days, then wear a mask for 5 additional days.
  - Unvaccinated students and staff must isolate for 10 days and be symptom free. Isolation begins the day of positive test or the day symptoms begin, based on whichever date is the latest.
  - Vaccinated students and staff can return to school (masked) once symptoms begin to improve, and after 5 days of isolation.
3. Quarantine: Staff and students who are exposed to someone with COVID-19, and
  - Not vaccinated – stay away from others for 5 days and get tested for Covid. If the test is negative students may return to school masked.
  - Vaccinated and eligible for a booster, but not yet been boosted – stay away from others for 5 days and return to school while wearing a mask for 5 additional days.
  - Vaccinated, and have either received a booster or are not yet eligible for a booster – individuals do not need to stay away from others, but should wear a mask for 10 days.
4. StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit guidance that remains unchanged includes:
  - Individuals who are not fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom or other school setting if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person do NOT need to quarantine.

### Reminders:

- If your student has COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive, do not send them to school. Please get the child tested immediately and begin isolation.
- If you have questions about the guidance in the toolkit, please contact Ms. McKenzie, Office Administrator/Covid Educator.
- Masks are mandatory for all students and staff members.



## KENT ACADEMY COVID POLICY

### Updated Policy based on Guidance:

1. Staff and students who have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status should – get tested and isolate from others while waiting for a result. If testing is not possible, follow the guidance below as if the person is positive.

Tested Positive	Next Steps	Can return...
Staff and students who test positive, and do not have symptoms –	Should isolate from others at home for 5 days...	...can return to school wearing a mask on day 6.
Unvaccinated staff and students who test positive, and do have symptoms ...	must isolate for 10 days and be symptom free. Isolation begins the day of positive test or the day symptoms begin, based on whichever date is the latest.	They can return to school masked on day 11.
Vaccinated students and staff who test positive, and do have symptoms ...	...must isolate at home for 5 days...	... and can return to school (masked) once symptoms begin to improve.

Exposed to Covid-19	Next Steps	Can return...
Unvaccinated staff and students who are exposed to Covid-19 ...	...should isolate from others at home for 5 days and get tested on day 6...	...can return to school wearing a mask immediately if the test is negative.
Vaccinated staff and students who are eligible for a booster, but not yet been boosted ...	...should isolate from others at home for 5 days...	...and can return to school masked on day 6.
Vaccinated staff and students, who have either received a booster or are not yet eligible for a booster ...		... and can return to school (masked) immediately.

