

# EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY

<http://www.escnj.us>

1660 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854  
Telephone: (732) 777-9848 ♦ Fax: (732) 777-9855

Mark J. Finkelstein  
Superintendent

Gary E. Molenaar  
Assistant Superintendent



Anthony La Marco  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

## Updated ESCNJ COVID Protocols

As of September 1, 2022, ESCNJ will implement the following updates to our COVID protocols. These COVID Protocols may change based on any updated NJDOH and NJDOE Guidelines.

**Please note, masks will be optional at all ESCNJ schools and programs based on the current NJDOH COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report.**

- Health Screening will follow the CDC and NJDOH one or two symptom list as follows:

For school settings, the CDC and NJDOH recommend that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;

**OR**

- At least one of the following symptoms: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

These same exclusion standards will apply to staff members, contracted service providers, and all other adults in school buildings and ESCNJ offices.

- In lieu of contact tracing, there will be staff & parent notification when a case has been identified in the classroom and/or work area. Self-monitoring for COVID Compatible Symptoms (CCS) appearance is expected.

NJDOH recommends that schools require masks in the following circumstances:

- During periods of elevated community transmission – when COVID-19 Community Levels are high, NJDOH recommends universal masking for all students and staff, especially if there is difficulty incorporating other layered prevention strategies (e.g., adequate ventilation, adequate spacing of students, etc.).
- During an active outbreak – during an outbreak or a general increase in cases, schools should consult with their LHD as to whether short-term universal masking or masking in affected classrooms should be required to control the outbreak/increase in cases.

Academy Learning Center ♦ Adult Community Services ♦ Bright Beginnings Learning Center ♦ Center for Lifelong Learning ♦ Future Foundations Academy  
NuView Academy ♦ Pathways to Adult Living ♦ Piscataway Regional Day School ♦ Turning Point Academy

Child Study Team & Related Services ♦ Collaborative Educational Services ♦ Cooperative Pricing – Lease Purchase Bidding ♦ Cooperative Transportation  
Home Instruction ♦ Nonpublic School Services ♦ Children's Specialized Hospital ♦ Itinerant Services for Children with Hearing Loss ♦ Professional Development Academy

- After returning from isolation – students and staff who return to school during days 6 – 10 of isolation should be required to mask.
- After a COVID-19 exposure – exposed individuals should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days from last exposure.
- When illness occurs in school – students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school or care should wear a mask until they leave the premises.

**As of September 1, 2022, ESCNJ will implement the following updates to our COVID protocols:**

- Cafeteria/Food Service will return to pre-COVID procedures. This is particular to each school/program building.
- All school vehicles may operate at their regular capacities.
- Visitors will be allowed in school/program buildings as needed and as appropriate.

**Persons who test positive for COVID-19 and are symptomatic or persons with COVID-19 symptoms who were not tested or who are waiting for test results:**

- Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms).
  - a. If symptoms resolve (fever-free for 24 hours, other symptoms improve, and a negative result on a rapid antigen viral test is received, isolation may end after 5 full days (i.e., one may return on day 6).
  - b. If symptoms persist (fever or if other symptoms have not improved), continue to isolate until fever-free for 24 hours, other symptoms have improved.
  - c. To return between Day 6 and Day 10 one must receive a negative test result on a rapid antigen viral test.

**Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms:**

- Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test).
  - a. If no symptoms develop, isolation may end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
  - b. If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms. Follow recommendations for ending isolation for persons who have COVID-19 symptoms.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Executive Order #253 Instituting Vaccination or Testing Requirement for All School Personnel and for All State Workers has been rescinded, therefore weekly COVID testing for all unvaccinated faculty/staff will cease immediately.
- Staff and families are encouraged to continue to follow CDC Travel Recommendations.

*(Should COVID conditions change, we will revisit our protocols as needed.)*