

What's Happening in NYC Public Schools

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schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies

Week of August 29, 2022

We're excited to welcome you back to school on Thursday, September 8! As you prepare for the first day of school, we want to ensure that you've received New York City's most up-to-date guidance on health and safety.

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Reduce COVID-19 Risk

- **Get vaccinated!** This is the best way to reduce COVID-19 risk.
 - We strongly encourage all eligible New Yorkers to stay up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots. To find a vaccine site near you, visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or text your zip code to 438829. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit nyc.gov/covidvaccine.
 - Vaccination is still required for all visitors entering school buildings. This includes NYC Department of Education (DOE) employees; anyone who works in DOE buildings; and anyone participating in high-risk extracurricular activities, including Public School Athletic League (PSAL) sports. To learn more, please visit schools.nyc.gov/2022health.

- **Wear masks** to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Masks will be available at your school. We recommend wearing well-fitting masks when indoors, and when exposed to someone with COVID-19 in or outside of school. All students and staff are **required** to wear a mask when:
 - Entering the school medical room, nurse’s office, or school-based health center,
 - Returning to school (including traveling by school bus) between days 6 to 10 after a COVID positive test or, if earlier, after the onset of symptoms, and
 - Showing symptoms of COVID-19 at school.
- **Test for COVID-19.** Starting on the first day of school, schools will offer home test kits to students and staff who may be at risk of exposure and students or staff experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. In addition, each staff member and student will receive four tests per month to take home. In-school PCR testing will not be a part of the 2022-23 school year.
- **Stay home if you are sick.** If students and staff show any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses, they should stay home and get tested for COVID-19. This year, you will not need to complete a Daily Health Screening to enter school buildings.
- **Isolate if you are COVID-19 positive.** Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 5 days and can return to school on day 6 (masked through day 10) if they have no symptoms or if symptoms are improving. Be sure to report a positive case to your child’s school.

This year, schools will continue to follow CDC guidelines, using air purifiers and updated HVAC systems. Building ventilation will be monitored daily, and surfaces cleaned regularly.

[Get Vaccinated Against Polio](#)

Poliovirus has been identified in wastewater samples in New York City, following a case of polio identified in Rockland County. **Everyone who is unvaccinated against polio — especially children — should get vaccinated immediately.** Parents can check the records for their children here: myvaccinerecord.cityofnewyork.us/myrecord. Vaccination against polio is required to attend school in New York City.

- If your child needs to get vaccinated against polio, make an appointment with your pediatrician or regular health care provider. If your doctor does not have the polio vaccine or you do not have a doctor, call 311. Children should get four doses of poliovirus vaccine, starting at age 2 months. Anyone starting the vaccine after age 4 months should receive a total of three doses.
- Find out more about protecting yourself and your children against polio at nyc.gov/health/polio.

Learn About Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus, usually spread through direct skin-to-skin contact with the sores of someone who has monkeypox. It can also be spread through contact with clothing or bedding, or from respiratory droplets during face-to-face contact. In this current monkeypox outbreak, the virus has spread mainly among adults during close contact, such as during sex, kissing, cuddling, and massage. It can cause sores that may look like pimples or blisters, be firm to the touch, and have a dip in the center. Some people also have flu-like symptoms.

- Do not assume someone has monkeypox if they have a rash or sores. Most rashes and sores are not caused by monkeypox virus. Sores are very common among children, and are usually due to bug bites, acne, allergies, or other causes that are not contagious and do not require staying home from school, child care, or afterschool activities.
- Children who have a new or unexplained rash or sores should be seen by the school nurse or by their health care provider. You can find more information on monkeypox at nyc.gov/monkeypox.

Get Ready to Go Back to School on Thursday, September 8!

As you and your child gear up for the first day of school, get off to a flying start with these suggestions. For more tips, read our **Back to School Checklist** at schools.nyc.gov/checklist.

- **Plan Ahead.** Review the 2022-23 **School Calendar** at schools.nyc.gov/calendar for information on upcoming events and closures throughout the year.
- **Stay Connected.** Sign up for a **NYC Schools Account** (NYCSA) and update your emergency contact information at schools.nyc.gov/NYCSA.
- **Stay Healthy.** Submit all required **health forms** (schools.nyc.gov/schoolhealth) and check that your child is up to date on all **required vaccinations** (schools.nyc.gov/immunization).