



OPTIONAL MASK GUIDANCE

February 9th, 2022

MASKS OPTIONAL BEGINNING FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Subject to the exceptions noted below, the Pitt County Board of Education has voted to make face masks optional for all Pitt County Schools staff, students, and visitors.

EXCEPTIONS TO OPTIONAL MASKING

- Exception 1:** Masks are **still required at all times on all buses**. This is a federal mandate. Students and staff must wear masks when riding on a Pitt County Schools bus or activity bus.
- Exception 2:** Students and staff **must comply** with the requirements of any facility requiring masks, which includes students participating in field trips, students attending Career and College Promise classes at PCC or ECU, and students enrolled in the PCC or ECU Early College High Schools. If the facility requires everyone to wear a mask, Pitt County Schools students and staff must wear a mask while on site.
- Exception 3:** To prevent exclusion, masks are **also required** in certain situations following a COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure. These situations are outlined on pages 15 -16 of the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit. In these scenarios, parents have the option of keeping their student at home instead of having the student attend school wearing a mask. The options after exposure are outlined in the following section.

EXPOSURE GUIDELINES IN A MASK-OPTIONAL SETTING

A person who meets one of the following exposure exemption requirements in the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit (pages 15 - 16) can return to school, provided they wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure **and** remain asymptomatic.

- An individual who is fully vaccinated
- An individual who has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days, or
- An individual has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time

A person in a mask optional setting for whom an exception to exclusion does not apply and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 has three options:

- Option 1: Participate in Test to Stay Program with Mandatory Masks:** A person who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 can opt-in to the Duke/ABC Collaborative Test to Stay Program as outlined on the next page. While in the Test to Stay Program, a person must:
- Test at pre-designated intervals,
 - Remain asymptomatic,
 - Wear a mask for a total of 10 days after exposure, and
 - Are unable to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities until after day 5 of the Test to Stay Program.
- Option 2: Remain at Home for 5 Days, Return with Mask for 5 Days:** A person who chooses not to participate in the Test to Stay Program and does not meet the above exemptions, must be excluded from school for 5 days after exposure. A person may return to school after exclusion if asymptomatic but must continue to wear a mask for additional 5 days for a total of 10 days after exposure.
- Option 3: Remain at Home for 10 Days:** A person who chooses not to participate in the Test to Stay Program, does not meet the exemption requirements, and does not wish to wear a mask for the 10-day period following exposure must remain at home for the full 10 day period after exposure.

TESTING PROGRAMS

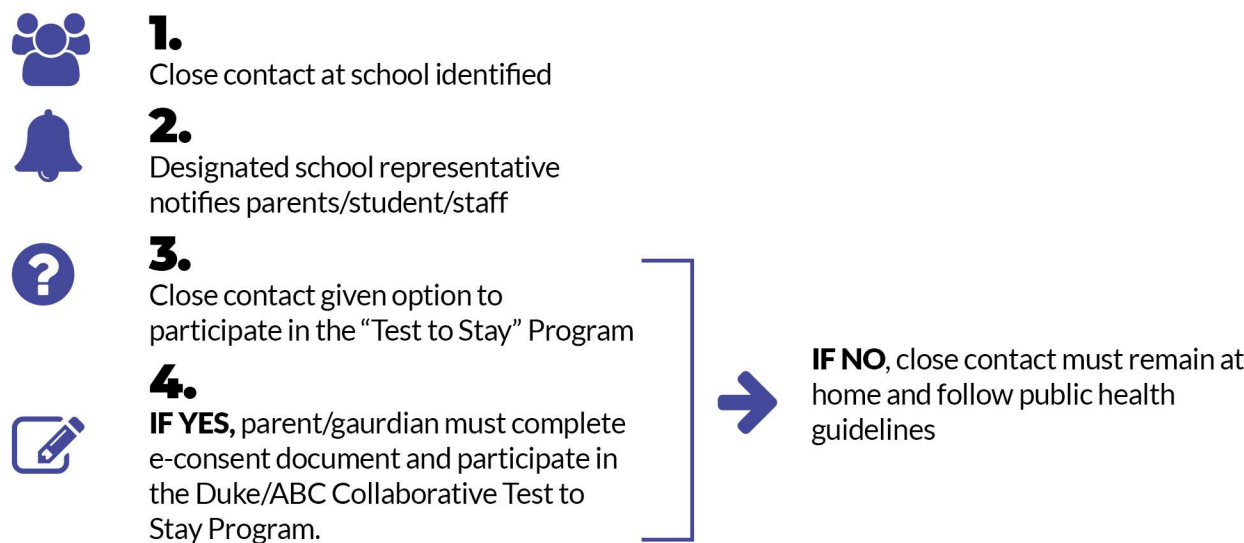
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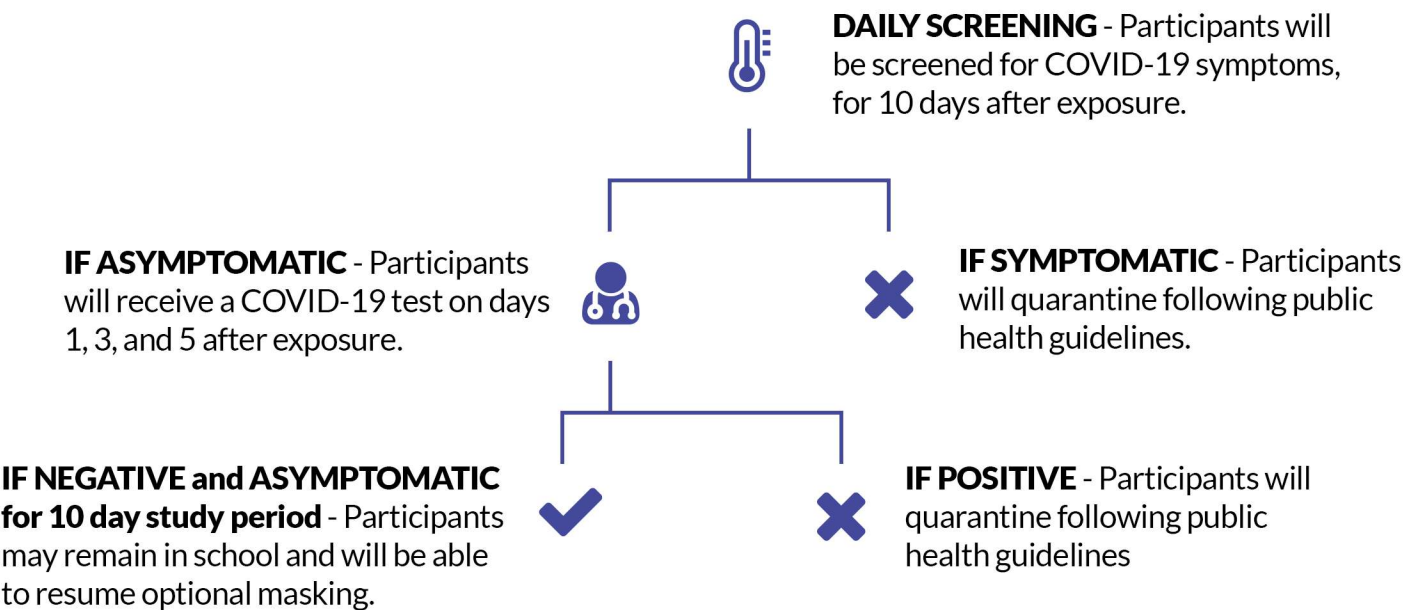
Pitt County Schools offers two programs for testing that parents can opt-in to. Parents can opt-in to either program at any time.

- Program 1: Symptomatic Testing through Mako Medical** is the diagnostic testing option for students who are experiencing COVID symptoms. To opt-in to Mako Medical testing, contact your school for the school-specific registration link.
- Program 2: Test to Stay through Duke/ABC Collaborative** is the exposure testing option for students who have been exposed to COVID-19 and wish to stay in the classroom. To opt-in to the Test to Stay program, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/PCSTestToStay>

TEST TO STAY ENROLLMENT AND CONSENT



TEST TO STAY PROGRAM



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A parent/guardian can opt-in to the Test to Stay program at any time.

For additional resources regarding the Duke/ABC Collaborative Test to Stay Program, including Frequently Asked Questions, video tutorials on the consent process, and other helpful resources, please visit: <https://bit.ly/PCSTestToStayInfo>.