



# Mill Falls' Fall 2022 COVID Protocol

Our school community has done a great job caring for one another since the onset of COVID and that has been in large part due to ongoing communication from our families about illness and exposure at home. We had minimal in-school spread and that was entirely connected to our working together. We are so thankful to everyone in our community who continues to take care of themselves and one another with the aim of keeping our community healthy!

As we continue to transition away from the most intense days of COVID to a more manageable phase, we are looking at our past mitigation measures and integrating the newest CDC guidelines into our 2022/23 plan. This involves the lifting of several measures we had in place since returning to school in-person.

As per the new CDC guidelines and changes in local resources, unless guidance or circumstances in terms of COVID levels significantly change, we will no longer be:

- Cohorting the students into groupings by classroom or small group instruction;
- Spacing out the students when they are inside the building;
- Utilizing the ConvenientMD Morning Wellness Check.

However, we will ask you to check in with your child each morning to be sure they are feeling well. Students arriving at school feeling unwell, or those who develop symptoms at school will be sent home. You will be asked to test for COVID and/or seek medical evaluation if illness continues. All students and staff in the building are expected to be healthy and feeling well so they are available for learning.

Additionally,

- We will no longer require PCR tests following exposure at home, as the CDC now says that home testing is sufficient. However, **we will continue to require 2 negative tests for safe return to school following infection** (see below).
- We will no longer ask that your child stay home due to school or home exposure, though we will continue to make our families aware when there are cases in the classroom or in a learning cohort or bus.
- As per new CDC guidelines, exposure at home, or lack of up-to-date vaccination no longer dictate quarantine (stay home) requirements. However, we have mapped out important details below should there be at-home exposure.
- Masks continue to be optional, except following at-home exposure (please see below).

A reminder, that COVID is not done with us, and as masking becomes less frequent, we have been told to expect to see an uptick in flu, colds and stomach illnesses. **That means that if your child is sick or unwell, please keep them home.** This will continue to be critical in helping us keep our school community as healthy as possible.

The CDC and public health officials continue to recommend that everyone stay up-to-date on COVID vaccinations to help protect ourselves and those around us from serious illness.

NEW CDC Guidelines released in August 2022, have generated some updates to our COVID protocols. Should additional local, state or national recommendations impact our school's protocol, we will update this plan.

**Please carefully review the following information. Should you have any questions, please contact the Front Office. Thank you!**

## YOUR IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:

The School-Home Partnership is extremely important in keeping our students and staff as healthy as possible.

What does this mean?

- If your child is sick, please keep them home! We say the same to our staff.
- If students arrive at school sick, or illness develops while at school, parents/guardians will be called to pick up their child within 30 minutes of being called.
- If you or anyone in your home (overnight guests or extended stay guests) is COVID positive, please alert the Front Office immediately by email, [Office@millfalls.org](mailto:Office@millfalls.org), or by phone, 603-232-5176.
- If your child has any symptoms that are on the COVID symptom list, they will be required to follow our testing protocol before they are welcome back to school.
- If your child tests positive (with or without symptoms), they will be required follow our Isolation protocol (below).
- If your child tests negative for COVID, then our regular sickness protocol shall be followed - the child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, free of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours. All other symptoms need to be significantly improved before your child will be welcome back at school.
- Even if COVID-negative, students must be well enough to be ready for learning before returning to school.
- Those recovering from a cold or other illness are asked to consider wearing a mask to prevent spread.

The following pages outline the steps to follow should your child have known exposure to COVID, develop symptoms, or become COVID positive.

Please remember to reference this information should you have exposure in your home.

Please note, the revised CDC guidelines remove any differences in protocol related to vaccination status or previous COVID infection.

## HAS YOUR CHILD HAD CLOSE EXPOSURE AT HOME TO SOMEONE WITH COVID?

**1: Please notify the Front Office** by email or phone that your child has had close contact with someone in your home who is COVID positive (this includes family member or overnight/extended stay guest).

- The student will be expected to wear a mask indoors at school for 10 days, as COVID-19 can develop up to 10 days after exposure.
- Families will be expected to provide the mask for their child.
- **Day 0** = The *day of last* exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- **Day 1** = The first full day *after* last exposure.

**Note:** If there is a known case in your child's classroom, masking is optional. Additionally, we will no longer recommend that you consider keeping your child home. We do, however, recommend that you test your child at least once during the 10 days following the known in-school exposure and watch for symptoms related to COVID (see 2a and 2b below).

**2a: Watch for symptoms known to be related to COVID.**

- Should your child develop any of the symptoms listed below, please keep your child home.
- A child who develops these symptoms at school will be sent home for testing and evaluation (see below).
- The symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 

○ Fever/chills (measured 100.4F)	○ New loss of taste or smell
○ Cough	○ Runny nose or nasal congestion
○ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	○ Muscle or body aches
○ Sore throat	○ Nausea or vomiting
○ Fatigue	○ Diarrhea
○ Headache	

See next page for information about being symptomatic or COVID positive



**2b: Test your child at least 5 full days after the last known exposure.**

- Test even if no symptoms develop.
- The CDC now says home tests are appropriate to use for this purpose.
- If the test is positive, even if there are no symptoms, begin isolation immediately.
- See below for details about ending isolation.

**IF SYMPTOMS DEVELOP OR YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE:**

**1: If COVID-related symptoms develop:**

- Any student who experiences COVID-related symptoms at school will be sent home and expected to follow the following protocol:
  - Upon arrival home, **take a COVID self/home test.**
  - **If the test is positive, the student will begin the required 5-day Isolation at home.** These will be considered sick days, and will be excused absences.
  - Public health officials suggest that families **contact a healthcare provider** right away to determine if the student is eligible for treatment, even if their symptoms are mild at onset.
  - **Day 0** is the day of symptom onset or positive test, whichever is earlier. **Day 1** is the next day.
  - **Your child must have 2 negative COVID tests and have significantly improved symptoms before being welcome back to school.**
  - **Photos of the home test results must be sent in to [Office@millfalls.org](mailto:Office@millfalls.org).**

**2: Ending Isolation after onset of illness or positive test without symptoms:**

- If a doctor diagnoses the illness as something other than COVID, then the student shall remain at home until symptoms significantly improve, including no fever, vomiting or diarrhea, for 24 hours without the use of medication. Please review our Family Handbook for more details about staying home when sick with illness other than COVID.
- **If the student tests positive for COVID:**
  - Student shall take a COVID home test on day 5 and the morning of day 6.
  - Photos of the home test results must be sent in to [Office@millfalls.org](mailto:Office@millfalls.org).
  - If both tests are negative **AND** if the student's symptoms have significantly improved, the student may return to the school on day 6.
  - The CDC highly recommends that people returning to work or school on day 6 wear a mask until their day 11 while indoors to protect others.
- **If the student tests positive on day 5 or 6:**
  - The student must remain at home until they get 2 negative tests **AND** symptoms have significantly improved, or until they reach day 11.
  - Photos of the home test results must be sent in to [Office@millfalls.org](mailto:Office@millfalls.org).
  - The CDC highly recommends that people returning to work or school before their day 11, wear a mask while indoors to protect others.
  - The student may return to school on day 11.