

January 3, 2022

Sending on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Health

As we begin the new year, school leaders are requesting updated COVID-19 guidance, particularly to changes that have occurred to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) close contact and quarantine practices.

At this time, schools should follow the most recent PA Department of Health (DOH) Health Alert (PA-HAN) on Isolation and Quarantine Periods for COVID-19 for the General Population that was released last Thursday. (

[615 - 12/30/2021 - UPD - UPDATE: Isolation and Quarantine Periods for COVID-19 for the General Pop](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2021-PAHAN615-12-30-UPD-Isolation%20and%20Quar_GenPop1.pdf)

([https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2021-PAHAN615-12-30-UPD-Is](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2021-PAHAN615-12-30-UPD-Isolation%20and%20Quar_GenPop1.pdf)

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As with previous updates in guidance, schools are expected to follow the new *community* guidelines. The CDC has indicated that there will be additional guidance for more specific settings, including schools, released in the near future. DOH will review and update the community guidance in the PA-HAN accordingly if and when CDC makes any further adjustments. Please note that this is a very fluid situation. We appreciate your patience as we work through these changes together.