



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671 • FAX (814) 725-9380

Dr. Michele Spurgeon Hartzell, Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Fox, Business Manager

Mrs. Shelley Allen, Administrative Assistant

December 30, 2021

Dear North East Family,

As a reminder, our number one goal is to keep our students and staff safe and to keep our buildings open. After holiday break, the North East School District will continue to follow our district Health and Safety Plan for indoor masking which includes masking while Erie County COVID-19 transmission rates are in substantial or high. Masking will be required in all North East schools by all students, employees, and visitors in the New Year. Additionally, the Federal masking requirement for public transportation is still in effect. Students are required to wear masks on school buses and any school vehicle for all transportation activities and events.

The Erie County Department of Health has released new quarantine guidelines. We will be transitioning to MOST of these new quarantine guidelines; however, please note, since strict masking is required for exposures from day six through day ten from last exposure, participation in extra-curricular and athletics will continue to be ten days, returning on day eleven to the activity. We have included the ECDOH Chart as reference below. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kiersten Lawrence at klawrence@nesd1.org or myself at mhartzell@nesd1.org.

We will also begin a pilot Test to Stay program provided by the State for students and staff. Please be patient as we navigate this new resource in the North East School District. Please go to the website link below to sign an electronic consent form for your child. You **MUST** fill out one for each building that your child attends- you must use the unique code associated with the school building for registration (it took me less than a minute to register my child). This will provide our nurses with the option of providing a rapid test for your child to stay in school if they have “flu-like” symptoms. In addition to the on-line consent, our nurses will contact parents for a verbal consent prior to conducting ANY rapid testing. We must have both the on-line consent and the verbal permission (verbal when called) for participation in this program. Please note that the North East School District **IS NOT** and **WILL NOT** be participating in the pooled portion of the test to stay program, **ONLY** the rapid antigen testing portion listed on the on-line consent form. Go to the district website, select GOLD update tab, select Test to Stay under COVID Quick Links

<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>

- Earle C. Davis Primary School: **NBDJBK**
- Intermediate Elementary School: **J8E4R5**
- North East Middle School: **2C56MY**
- North East High School: **4HEB9D**

“The Mission of the North East School District is to challenge, empower, and engage all students to develop and achieve personal and career aspirations, to pursue lifelong learning, and to be responsible and accountable citizens in a dynamic world.”



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The Erie County Department of Health Guidelines are also uploaded onto the district website at nesd1.org, select the GOLD Update tab.



Guidance on Quarantine and Isolation

Updated as of Dec. 27, 2021

For additional guidance or questions, call 814-451-6700

For **quarantine** and **isolation**: Stay home. Do not go to school, work or attend social activities. Do not allow visitors in your home.
 Additional for **isolation**: Stay in a specific "sick room" or area and use a separate bathroom if available.
 See below for guidance on number of days you are required to quarantine and isolate.

Quarantine is for when you might have been exposed to the virus and may or may not have been infected.
Isolation is for when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

You have NO symptoms and	You must	If you develop symptoms at any time	If test results are positive, regardless of vaccination status
Have been boosted OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR J&J vaccine within the last 2 months	Wear a mask around others for 10 days. Monitor for symptoms & social distance Test on day 5, if possible.	Get a test and isolate . Stay home and follow guidance in next column.	You must isolate for 10 days. Day 0 is onset of symptoms or day of test. Inform your close contacts that you have COVID-19 and that they must quarantine if they are not vaccinated. You can leave your house after 5 days IF you have no symptoms OR your symptoms are resolving, which means, for 24 hours, without the use of medication, you have:
Have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are unvaccinated	Must Quarantine . Stay home for 5 days. Wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. Monitor for symptoms & social distance. Test on day 5, if possible. <i>if you live with someone who is positive, stay home while they are in isolation and an additional 5 days after their isolation ends.</i>	Get a test and isolate . Stay home and follow guidance in next column.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no fever • no vomiting or diarrhea • no sore or painful throat (if present, should be mild enough that pain medication is not needed) Continue to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. • monitor for symptoms & social distance.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and patience as we navigate through these new changes and the opportunity of Test to Stay.

Finally, please have a plan in place in the event we need to transition to remote learning. We are seeing a significant increase in COVID case in our students and staff. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kiersten Lawrence at klawrence@nesd1.org or myself at mhartzell@nesd1.org.

Happy New Year and we will see our children back on Monday, January 3, 2022!

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent