

Dear parents,

As you may be aware, CDC recently changed their guidance for quarantine after exposure to COVID-19. Currently, anyone who is not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including third (booster) doses, must quarantine after exposure. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has adapted its quarantine guidance to follow CDC guidance, including in school settings.

Beginning Feb. 1, 2022, all staff and students must be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including third doses if five months has passed since their second dose, in order to be exempt from quarantine after an exposure. Anyone age 12 or older is due for a third dose five months after they received their second dose. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should get a second dose (preferably of either Pfizer or Moderna, if possible) two months after they first got vaccinated.

For more information about third doses, please visit: covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-third-dose-booster

Children younger than 12 years of age are not yet eligible for third doses. They are considered up to date after completion of their primary series. For most children, “primary series” means two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. Some immunocompromised children may require three doses in their primary series.

We understand that many students may not yet have received a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at this time. Colorado students and educators have until Feb. 1, 2022 to receive third doses if they have not done so already. Until that date, students and staff who have completed their primary vaccine series, but have not yet received a third dose, may return to school following exposure if they obtain a negative test and wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after exposure. They should get tested again on day five after exposure.

Additionally, students and staff will be considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations immediately after they have received their third dose. They do not have to wait 14 days after vaccination.

Other criteria outlined in [Colorado’s Practical Guide for Operationalized CDC’s School Guidance](#) that allow for reduced quarantine for schools, including routine testing or mask use, continue to apply.