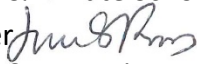




COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH

MEMORANDUM

To: Dutchess County Public School Superintendents & Private Schools
From: Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD FACEP, Commissioner 
Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health
Date: January 7, 2022
RE: January 4th NYS and CDC Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

In further discussing the challenges associated with full and immediate adoption of the latest CDC and NYS guidance regarding isolation and quarantine, Dutchess County recommends a temporary suspension of the implementation of the quarantine recommendation for fully vaccinated, but not yet boosted P-12 school staff.

Pandemic related staffing challenges have stretched school staffing to their limits, making it unreasonable for schools to exclude fully vaccinated staff from the classroom due to exposures. Immediate adoption of this measure would render many schools unable to maintain in-person instruction. Therefore, it is the recommendation of Dutchess County that quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated staff members not be enforced pending the following interim steps:

- Request necessary information about booster eligibility among staff,
- Conduct or refer staff to booster clinics,
- Upscale Test to Stay operations to provide alternative to quarantining, and
- Await forthcoming New York State and CDC guidance specific to P-12 instruction.

Please note, due to the transmissible nature of the current strain of this virus and consistent with existing guidance, high priority should be placed on the use of well-fitting masks to reduce the risk of transmission, particularly for exposed staff.

We once again thank our school partners for the challenging and exceptional work they do every day to ensure a safe environment for in-person instruction during this tumultuous time.