

August 23, 2022

Dear Van Ness Elementary School,

This letter is to inform you that we have been notified of 1 reported positive case(s) of COVID-19 at your school on August 19. Any positive individual is no longer on campus and will not return until medically cleared. **Unless you have received instructions directly**, you have not been identified as a close contact of a positive individual and do not need to self-quarantine.

DCPS continues to employ our layered mitigation strategy against COVID-19, including asymptomatic testing, symptom screening upon arrival, and enhanced air filtration. We wanted to take a moment to provide a few resources and reminders for our families:

1. **Remember to follow Ask, Ask, Look** and continue to monitor your student for any symptoms of COVID-19 every day. If they are [showing any symptoms](#) and/or they are required to quarantine due to being unvaccinated and exposed to an individual who has tested positive from COVID-19, please keep them home. Follow all isolation guidance from DC Health and your child's healthcare provider.
2. **Quarantine periods for DCPS Staff and Student Close Contacts:**
 - a. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or who had COVID-19 in the last 90 days do not need to quarantine if they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.
 - b. If an unvaccinated/partially vaccinated student or staff member is a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to quarantine for at least 5 days. Students or staff may return to the classroom on day 6 if they take a COVID-19 PCR or rapid antigen test on or after day 5 and receive a negative result.
 - c. Unvaccinated students or staff who do not take a PCR or rapid antigen test must quarantine for 10 days. If your student is identified as a close contact for a reported positive case at school, your principal will provide instructions to quarantine.
3. **COVID Centers in your neighborhood:** At the District's COVID Centers, individuals will have access to vaccinations, boosters, face masks, and take-home rapid antigen tests as well as a walk-up testing. COVID Centers are open in all 8 wards and find the one near you at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/covidcenters>.
4. **Get Vaccinated:** Getting yourself and your child vaccinated is the best way to protect your family against COVID-19, and we urge our families to take this important step for all students 5 years or older. Visit vaccinate.dc.gov for free vaccine locations across the city.
5. **Free meals for students:** Grab and go breakfast and lunches are available to all DCPS students. Meal sites are located around the district and further information is available on the [DCPS Food and Nutrition Services](#) page. For additional meal resources, families are encouraged to visit coronavirus.dc.gov/food for information, including free grocery sites and more.

We know that this has been a trying time for our community. We will continue to keep you informed about our health and safety measures and work together to ensure we continue to have a strong, robust, and safe school year.

Thank you,
DCPS COVID Response Team