

May 10, 2022

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce that the New York City Department of Education (DOE) will be allowing students to attend proms and similar one-time end-of-year dances this spring regardless of vaccination status. That decision is based on guidance from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that proms and one-time end-of-year dances are not subject to the Health Commissioner’s Order requiring vaccination for high-risk extracurricular activities.

The DOE is now providing all students with four COVID-19 home test kits per week, and we strongly recommend that your child take one test within 24 hours prior to the dance or prom and a second test five days after the event. If your child experiences symptoms of COVID-19 in the days after attending a dance or prom, please help your child take a home test immediately. We also strongly recommend that students and staff wear a high-quality N95 or KN95 mask at the event as an added layer of protection.

Additionally, any dance or prom will require completion of the daily health screening form, which is available at [healthscreening.schools.nyc](https://healthscreening.schools.nyc). For events held at school buildings, all chaperones are still required to show proof of vaccination. Please also note that if a prom or end-of-year dance is held at an outside venue, participants must follow the venue’s COVID-19 health and safety requirements, including providing proof of vaccination if required.

As a reminder, vaccination is the best tool we have to fight COVID-19 and keep our schools safe for all our students. Children ages 5 and older are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, please make an appointment for vaccination at [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) or call 311 to find a vaccine site near you. The vaccine is free to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration or insurance status.

Vaccine booster shots are also now available for all fully vaccinated people ages 12 and older who received the second dose of a two-dose vaccine at least five months ago. For more information about booster shots, see [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19vaccines.page#boost](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19vaccines.page#boost).

Thank you for your continued partnership,



Dr. Cristina Meléndez  
Executive Director  
Family and Community Engagement

To view a copy of this document in your language, visit [schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies](https://schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies)

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