

## STUDENT COVID-19 FAQ

**1. Will I be informed if there is a positive case of COVID 19 in my child's class/grade/school?**

Parents/guardians will be informed by the public health department and/or the school nurse if their child is considered a close contact to a student or staff member that tests positive for COVID 19. If your child is not identified as a close contact during this investigation you will not be notified.

**2. What is a "close contact"?**

A "close contact" is a person who was within 6 feet of a positive case of COVID 19 with a CUMULATIVE total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period, with or without a face covering. This could mean three 5-minute contacts within a day, not necessarily 15 consecutive minutes.

**3. How is a close contact identified?** "Close contacts" are determined through a contact-tracing investigation. This will be determined by information provided by the positive case, reviewing seating charts, classroom activities, extracurricular participation and transportation arrangements. The school nurse/teachers will assist public health in determining close contacts. The name of the positive case will not be revealed to anyone who is not part of the contact-tracing investigation.

**4. What if my child is determined to be a "Close Contact" to a case of COVID 19?**

The child will be sent home and excluded from school for 14 days from the date of last contact with the positive case. The child is expected to remain home unless medical care is needed during that time. While quarantined, the "close contact" will monitor for symptoms of COVID 19. Close contacts are at risk of developing COVID 19 and should follow up with their healthcare provider immediately if symptoms develop.

**5. What if my child develops symptoms after being named a "Close Contact"?**

If a "close contact" develops symptoms of COVID 19, contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible for COVID 19 testing. Depending on the result of testing, that person's quarantine could be extended. Follow the direction of your healthcare provider or public health professional.

**6. What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID 19?** If a person is tested for COVID 19 they are to remain home and isolated from others until test results are received. Contact the school and report the positive test results and any school exclusion recommendations received from your healthcare provider or public health.

**7. What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?**

Isolation is used to separate people infected with SarsCOV-2 from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others ("Close Contact"). Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without

feeling symptoms. “Close Contacts” are considered at high risk for developing COVID 19 and spreading it to others. It can take 2 to 14 days after exposure to develop symptoms of COVID 19. Some people never develop symptoms but can actively spread disease without knowing, thus the duration of quarantine is at least 14 days from the last contact with a known case of COVID 19. Quarantine may be extended if the “Close Contact” develops symptoms while under quarantine. In this case, the person would become isolated and need to follow the protocol for isolation.

**8. If my child tests positive for COVID 19 how long will they need to be isolated?**

If isolated, you must remain home and away from others for 10 days from the onset of symptoms **AND** 24-hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication **AND** symptoms are improving. If your child did not have symptoms but had a positive test, they must remain isolated for 10 days from the date of the positive test

**9. Why do my other children need to stay home from school when only one child tested positive for COVID 19?** Once a positive case of COVID 19 is identified, all household members are then considered “Close Contacts” to the positive case and need to quarantine for at least 14 days. This includes children in blended/step-families if they were in the home with the positive case within 2 days of the positive case developing symptoms or having a positive test.

**10. Why were all of my children sent home from school when only one had symptoms of illness?** Based on current public health guidance, students with suspected COVID 19 and their siblings/household members that are school-aged, will all go home to reduce the risk of further spread of the virus. Until a test can be done, or more symptoms develop, it is safest for everyone that they are excluded from school. Expect children to be sent home at a much higher rate than in previous years.

**11. If my child is in quarantine because of “Close Contact” with a known case, do my other children need to be in quarantine too?** No. Only children considered as “Close Contact” to a positive case need to be home from school. However, if the quarantined child develops symptoms and tests positive, then the other children in the household become “Close Contacts” and need to be quarantined for at least 14 days.

**12. What do I do if my child tested for COVID 19 and the test is negative?** Anyone tested for COVID 19 must remain isolated until they receive their test results. If test results are negative, the person must remain home until symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

**13. What if my child has symptoms but we choose not to have COVID 19 testing?**

If a child has symptoms and is not tested for COVID 19, they must remain home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms **AND** must be symptom-free for at least 24 hours. If an ill person sees a healthcare provider and is diagnosed with a non-COVID 19-related illness (ie strep throat, ear infection, etc) they may return to school with a signed medical note indicating the date they are safe to return to school. **EXCEPTION:** If the symptomatic child was named as a “Close Contact” to a case of COVID 19 see numbers 4 & 5 above).