

School Isolation/Quarantine Recommendations

July 24, 2020 (This guidance will be updated as new information and recommendations are received.)

Student/Faculty with COVID-19 symptoms* or a positive COVID-19 test may end self-isolation when:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved
- If asymptomatic, it has been at least 10-days since positive test collection date

Anyone who has been in close contact to a confirmed case or a symptomatic individual with a known exposure should quarantine at home for 14 days past their last exposure to the case.

- A close contact is any individual who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes during their infectious period, which includes the 48 hours before the day the person became sick (or the 48 hours before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated.
- Close contact is also if you had direct contact with the COVID-19 case (touched, hugged, or kissed them), you shared eating or drinking utensils, or they sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.
- If a close contact in quarantine becomes symptomatic, they would be considered a case as of the day their symptoms begin and need to follow end of self-isolation criteria above to return to school.
- If a close contact in quarantine tests positive but does not develop symptoms, they would be considered a case as of the day their test was collected and need to follow end of isolation criteria above to return to school.
- If someone in their quarantine period tests negative, they should remain in quarantine for the duration of the 14 days and monitor for the development of symptoms at any time during the quarantine period.
- While face coverings should be worn in a school setting by staff and students in third grade or higher (and children over the age of two may also wear face coverings) as they prevent transmission of COVID, the use of face coverings is not a factor in determining close contacts.
- Contacts of contacts do not need to quarantine.
- A symptomatic person who tests negative for COVID-19 should wait until at least 24-hours after their symptoms resolve to return to school (in consultation with their physician).

Schools may work internally and with guidance from their designated Office of Public Health liaisons, OPH Regional Medical Directors and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section to determine which students and staff members have been in close contact with a confirmed case

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and recommend they quarantine. These students or staff should be notified directly that they are a close contact and should quarantine for 14 days. In addition, LDH Contact Tracing Team may interview the case and notify any named close household or community contacts of the need to quarantine.

If a courtesy notice is sent indicating that there is a positive case in a classroom or school, it should be clear that it is not to initiate quarantine but for awareness and so persons be alert for symptoms and can make modifications due to any personal risk factors.

Example Scenarios

1. An individual develops symptoms* or tests positive, what does the individual need to do?

The individual with symptoms or positive test should isolate and follow guidance for ending self-isolation. The individual may return to school when the ending self-isolation criteria is met.

Who should be quarantined?

Anyone who was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more starting 2 days before symptoms developed, or 2 days before specimen collection if asymptomatic. All close contacts should quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the symptomatic individual. In order to minimize the number of students who need to quarantine, we recommend all students be assigned seats and be discouraged from changing seats over time. Teachers should try to maintain 6 ft or greater distance from pupils whenever able and minimize the amount of time spent in less than 6ft from any pupil.

Contacts of contacts do not need to quarantine unless the primary contact becomes positive or symptomatic during quarantine.

2. An individual's immediate family member is home on quarantine due to an exposure. This individual has been coming to school. Must that individual quarantine?

No, contacts of contacts do not need to quarantine however they should follow social distancing at home with those in quarantine. They would not be subject to quarantine unless their immediate family member in quarantine developed symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19.

If the quarantined family member later tests positive, and the individual has been in close contact with them during the quarantine period, the individual must then be quarantined for 14-days past the last known exposure to the case as in Scenario #1.

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3. A teacher who teaches multiple classes is exposed and needs to quarantine. Do all of the students they had contact with need to quarantine?

No, contacts of contacts do not need to quarantine. However, if the teacher then becomes positive during her quarantine, then Scenario #1 should be followed.

If the teacher then tests positive or develops symptoms during the 14-day quarantine period, follow guidance for quarantining their close contacts.

4. Student stays home due to symptoms that developed overnight or over the weekend. Must teacher and other students quarantine?

If the student tests positive or had a known exposure less than 14 days before their onset, and the student was at school anytime starting 48 hours before symptoms, then anyone who was a close contact from two days before onset until the student left school would need to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure. If the student has symptoms but has not tested positive and did not have a known exposure, quarantining of close contacts is not necessary at that time.

If a courtesy notice is sent indicating that there is a positive case in a classroom or school, it should be clear that it is not to initiate quarantine but for awareness and so persons be alert for symptoms and can make modifications due to any personal risk factors.

5. How many positives or quarantined individuals should be allowed in a class before we put the entire class on virtual learning?

If anyone tests positive or has COVID symptoms and 6 feet physical distancing is not possible, anyone who was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more would need to quarantine.

If two or more people test positive or have COVID symptoms within 14 days of each other, move the entire class to virtual learning until 14 days past the last day a symptomatic person was in class.

To prevent needing to move an entire class to virtual learning, seats should be assigned and maintained to limit the number of students who would potentially be exposed to a case in the class and need to quarantine.

6. How many students can we allow to be positive or on quarantine before we put the entire school on virtual learning?

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The school may decide to move an entire school to virtual learning if the number of staff in isolation or quarantine hinders the operation of in-person learning. OPH designated liaisons, Regional Medical Director, and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section can provide guidance on a case by case basis. Factors to consider are adequate staffing, number of classrooms affected, and age groups affected.

7. When may a student or teacher who was exposed and on quarantine return to school?

Quarantine is for 14 days from the last date of exposure. If they become symptomatic, they would be considered a case and need to follow end of isolation criteria to return to school.

Can testing be used to shorten the quarantine period? No testing cannot be used to decrease the quarantine period.

8. How long does a student or employee/teacher need to quarantine if they have a positive COVID-19 case in their household?

The student would need to quarantine for 14 days past their last exposure to the household member. This may be 14 days starting from when the case has ended their isolation period if they are not able to safely isolate from the positive household member.

9. Do we require a negative test before a student or employee who has been exposed or positive is allowed to return?

- a. COVID case: No, nearly all COVID-19 patients should follow the end of isolation criteria above. Testing to determine end of isolation is no longer recommended except for persons who are severely immunocompromised in consultation with an infectious disease expert.
- b. COVID quarantine: Quarantine is for 14 days from the last date of exposure. If someone in their quarantine period tests negative, they need to remain in quarantine for the duration of the 14 days as they may develop symptoms at any time during the quarantine period.

10. A student on a bus tests positive. Who do we quarantine?

Anyone who was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more starting 2 days before symptoms developed, or 2 days before specimen collection if asymptomatic, should quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the positive individual.

Here again, consideration for assigned seats should be made to make it easier to identify individuals who need to quarantine.

11. If a student on a bus tests positive, is the bus driver quarantined?

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If the bus driver was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more starting 2 days before symptoms developed, or 2 days before specimen collection if asymptomatic, then the bus driver would need to quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure. If students close to a case cannot be discerned from video or other means, the entire bus should quarantine.

12. If a student tests positive who has been practicing on a sports team doing conditioning outdoors and everyone has been more than 6 feet apart at all times, does the team need to quarantine?

Given the description, nobody needs to quarantine if they were more than 6 feet apart at all times. If anyone were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more or any other type of close contact, they would need to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure.

13. What if a person cannot wear a cloth face covering?

We would recommend a face shield with a cloth attachment at the bottom to prevent droplet spread. However, a cloth face mask is preferred.

14. How often should busses be cleaned?

Clean busses after every trip.

15. If a student tests positive who has been practicing on a sports team doing conditioning outdoors and everyone has been more than 6 feet apart at all times, does the team need to quarantine?

Given the description, nobody needs to quarantine if they were more than 6 feet apart at all times. If anyone were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more or any other type of close contact, they would need to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure.

16. Bulletin 741 requires students to wash their hands before and after the use of playground equipment.

This means before and after recess or the play period.

**COVID-19 symptoms in children include fever and one of the following: shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell.*