What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

1. **School learns about a COVID positive case**
   - School calls health department to report the positive case

2. **Health department learns about a COVID positive case**
   - Health department calls school’s COVID-19 liaison

3. **School and health department work together to identify close contacts**
   - Health department interviews the case and determines isolation period and any non-school contacts

4. **Health department notifies close contacts and requires a 14-day quarantine based on last exposure**

5. **Close contact does NOT develop symptoms, completes quarantine period, and returns to school**

6. **Case completes isolation period of at least 10 days and returns to school**

**Notes:**

- *If someone is placed in quarantine, they may decide to get a COVID-19 test, but a negative result will NOT shorten the length of the quarantine period.
- **The health department will issue an official letter or other documentation to release a person from isolation or quarantine. Schools must use this letter to determine when to allow return to school.**
**ISOLATION** is for people who are already sick. Isolation separates and restricts sick people so they can’t spread the disease to healthy people.

**QUARANTINE** is for people who are not sick but may have been exposed. Quarantined people may or may not become sick.

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**Who must stay home or will be sent home?**

**STOP**

- Anyone in isolation or quarantine for COVID-19.
- Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 that are new or not typical for the student/staff member.

Any ONE of these:
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

Any TWO of these*:
- Fever of ≥100.4 or feeling feverish
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headache
- Fatigue

* If only one of the symptoms in group 2, follow school illness policy for return to school. People with COVID-19 can have no or almost no symptoms. If you have even ONE of these symptoms that is not typical for you, please seek testing.

**STOP**

Anyone who is considered a close contact that had a potential exposure within the last 14 days.

- A person who was within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes to a confirmed COVID-19 case or someone under quarantine for possible exposure.
- Public health authorities may determine that distances beyond 6 feet or less than 15 minutes can still result in high-risk exposures based on other considerations and circumstances in each particular case.
- A person who had cruise ship travel within last 14 days.

If excluded, you may not return to school or any school activity until authorized by public health. For a medical evaluation and/or COVID-19 testing, contact your health care provider or call 2-1-1 for resources.

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**How long do they have to stay home and out of school?**

**At least 10 days** from the first day symptoms started and until no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and other symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours or in accordance to the school’s illness policy.

- Symptomatic AND tests positive for COVID-19 (or results are pending).
  - If someone is awaiting test results, they must stay home until the results are in.
- Symptomatic and no test and no alternative diagnosis BUT had exposure.
- Symptomatic and no test and no alternative diagnosis and had NO known exposure.

**At least 24 hours** until no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and other symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours or in accordance to the school’s illness policy.

- Symptomatic AND tests negative for COVID-19 and had NO known exposure.
- Symptomatic AND has an alternative diagnosis and had NO known exposure.

**At least 14 days** based on last exposure.

- If NO symptoms BUT had exposure.

A person with COVID-19 is considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before they started having symptoms. If a person never had symptoms, they are considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before their COVID-19 test was performed.

Classmates—and other close contacts of a symptomatic but undiagnosed person or of a quarantined person—may continue to attend school and should monitor for symptoms. They do not need to be excluded from school.