



## SAFE SCHOOL PROTOCOLS 2022-2023

The Department of Health has provided updated guidance for K-12 Schools to help administrators support safe, in-person learning. It is recommended that all who are eligible for vaccines be updated on all vaccinations including COVID -19 vaccinations. All schools should teach and reinforce proper handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes. All surface areas should be cleaned and disinfected at least once per day. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who is identified as a close contact should follow isolation/quarantine guidance as followed below.

### **Tested POSITIVE for COVID-19:**

- Regardless of vaccination status, if someone tests positive for COVID-19, that person must isolate at home through Day 5. Day 0 is the day of onset of symptoms or test day if asymptomatic. Person may return to school on Day 6 as long as fever free for 24-hours without fever reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.
- It is recommended that the person wear a face covering while at home in isolation to reduce spread of the virus. It is also recommended to wear a face covering through Day 10 following a positive test while around others.

### **Identifying Close Contacts:**

- **Contact tracing** should be conducted for each case's infectious period beginning 48 hours before a person develops COVID-19 symptoms or 48 hours before a positive test, if that person is asymptomatic.
- **Close Contact** is defined within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 Minutes or more over a 24-hr period or having direct physical contact with an infected person.

### **Quarantine Guidance when Someone is Exposed to Someone with COVID-19:**

- **If exposed to someone with COVID-19 AND up-to-date on vaccinations, or if you tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days:**
  - You do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.
  - If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results.
  - Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  - It is highly recommended to wear a mask for 10 days while around others.
  - It is highly recommended to get tested on Day 5. If positive results, follow guidance for isolation.

- **If exposed to someone with COVID-19 and NOT up-to-date on vaccinations:**
  - **Option 1:**
    - Stay home/quarantine for 5 days. Day 0 being the last exposed day.
    - Return to school on Day 6 as long as no symptoms develop.
    - If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until you know the results.
    - Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
    - It is highly recommended to wear a mask for 10 days while around others
    - It is highly recommended to get tested on Day 5. If positive results, follow guidance for isolation.
  - **Option 2:**
    - Students and staff do not need to quarantine at home if they remain asymptomatic **AND TEST NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 **TWICE** during Days 0-5 following the last close contact.
    - Tests should be administered on non-consecutive days (e.g. specimen collection on Day 2 and Day 4). If positive test results, follow guidance for isolation.
    - Tests can be PCR or antigen tests. At home, over-the-counter tests are acceptable. A picture of test results must accompany the school issued parent acknowledgment form.
    - It is highly recommended to wear a mask for 10 days while around others.

## Quarantine Guidance for K-12 Sports:

- **Contact Sports** are sports in which some level of contact between participants is expected. Contact sports include, but are not limited to football, basketball, soccer, wrestling, softball, baseball, volleyball, and cheer.
- **Non-contact Sports** are sports in which contact with another individual is not expected. Non-contact sports include, but are not limited to, swimming, golf, bowling, bass fishing, and gymnastics.
- **Due to high rates of transmission that have been observed among K-12 sports teams, the following applies if a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19:**
  - Student athletes who are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations, or who have tested positive with an antigen or PCR test for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, can continue to practice and compete in contact sports if:
    - They remain asymptomatic **AND**
    - They test negative for COVID-19 on screening tests administered twice during Days 0-5 and twice during Days 6-10 following the last close contact. Tests should be administered on non-consecutive days (e.g. specimen collection on Day 2, 4, 7, and 10)
    - At home, over-the-counter tests are acceptable. A picture of test results must accompany the school issued parent acknowledgment form.
  - Student athletes who are NOT up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations should refrain from participation for 5 days and can return to practice or compete in close contact sports on Day 6 following close contact if:
    - They remain asymptomatic **AND**
    - They test negative for COVID-19 on screening tests administered twice during Days 6-10 following the last close contact. Tests should be administered on non-consecutive days (e.g. Days 7 and 10)
    - At home, over-the-counter tests are acceptable. A picture of test results must accompany the school issued parent acknowledgment form.