

COVID-19 2022 SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Barry-Eaton District Health Department

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COVID-19 Definitions



Close Contact

Someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Face Mask or Facial Covering

A tightly woven cloth or other multi-layer absorbent material that closely covers an individual's mouth and nose. The following are NOT considered face masks or facial coverings: mesh, netting, lace, or material that is see-through.

Fully Vaccinated

Persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

Household close contact

A close contact that lives with a COVID-19 case in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, households are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.

Isolation

The separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be sick with COVID-19 and infectious, from those who are not infected.

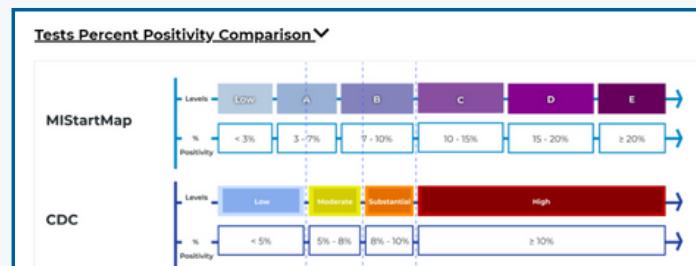
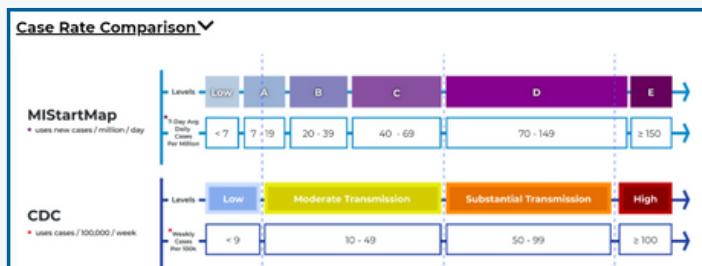
Quarantine

The separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been exposed.

Transmission Levels

Transmission levels for COVID-19 are defined by the number of weekly cases per 100,000 population. Per the CDC regarding their Data Tracker, "Data presented here might differ from data on state and local websites due to differences in how data were collected (e.g., date a specimen was obtained or the date a case was reported) or how the metrics are calculated." For the most accurate and up-to-date data for a specific county or state, visit the relevant state or local health department."

The level of community transmission can be found using the [CDC Transmission Indicator Framework](#) found on the MI Safe Start Map which uses State of Michigan Metrics.



[Click here](#) for more COVID-19 definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



COVID-19 Prevention Strategies



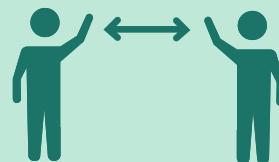
Schools should follow these COVID-19 prevention strategies:



Wear a mask.



Get vaccinated, if eligible.



Stay 6 feet away from others.



Wash your hands.



Clean and disinfect.



Cover your coughs and sneezes.



Monitor your health daily.



Stay home if you are sick.

[Click here](#) for more information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about How to Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19.



Student Illness Decision-Making

A: Does student have ANY of the following symptoms (new/difference/worse from baseline of chronic illness):

- Temperature 100.4 or signs of fever (chills/sweating)
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache
- Loss of taste or loss of smell

B: Does student have ANY close contact or potential exposure risk in the past 14 days:

- Had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Have taken part in activities that puts them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed, such as participating in contact sports, attending a gathering with other children or family
- Were asked or referred to get testing by a health department or healthcare provider

If A is YES and B is NO, student should receive a [COVID-19 test**](#) and/or medical evaluation.

- If test is **positive**, follow isolation guidance in "[Process for a COVID-19 Case at School](#)."
- If test is **negative** or **no test is done**, student can return with symptom improvement per usual [communicable disease guidelines](#).

If A is YES and B is YES, student should receive a [COVID-19 test**](#).

- If test is **positive**, follow isolation guidance in "[Process for a COVID-19 Case at School](#)."
- If test is **negative** or **no test is done**, follow close contact guidance in "[Process for a COVID-19 Case at School](#)".

If A is NO and B is YES, follow close contact guidance in "[Process for a COVID-19 Case at School](#)".

If both are NO, student goes to school.

****Note:** Student should not be at school while waiting for test results.

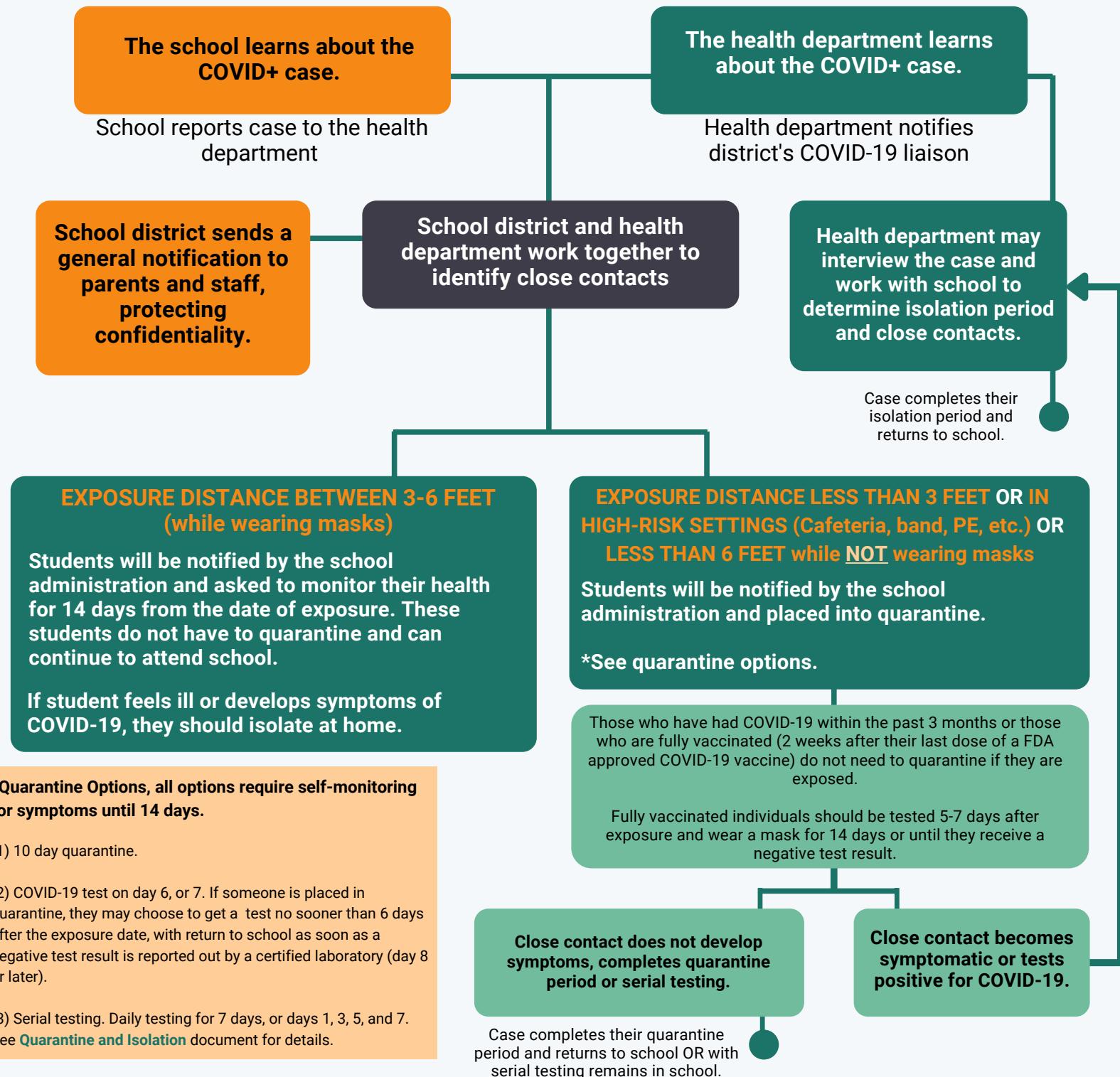


Process for a COVID-19 Case at School Where Test to Stay Policy IS in Place

In settings where, 1) All individuals are wearing masks covering their nose and mouth, OR 2) The School has a "Test to Stay" Policy in place.

What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

Student/Staff is confirmed positive for COVID-19 with diagnostic test



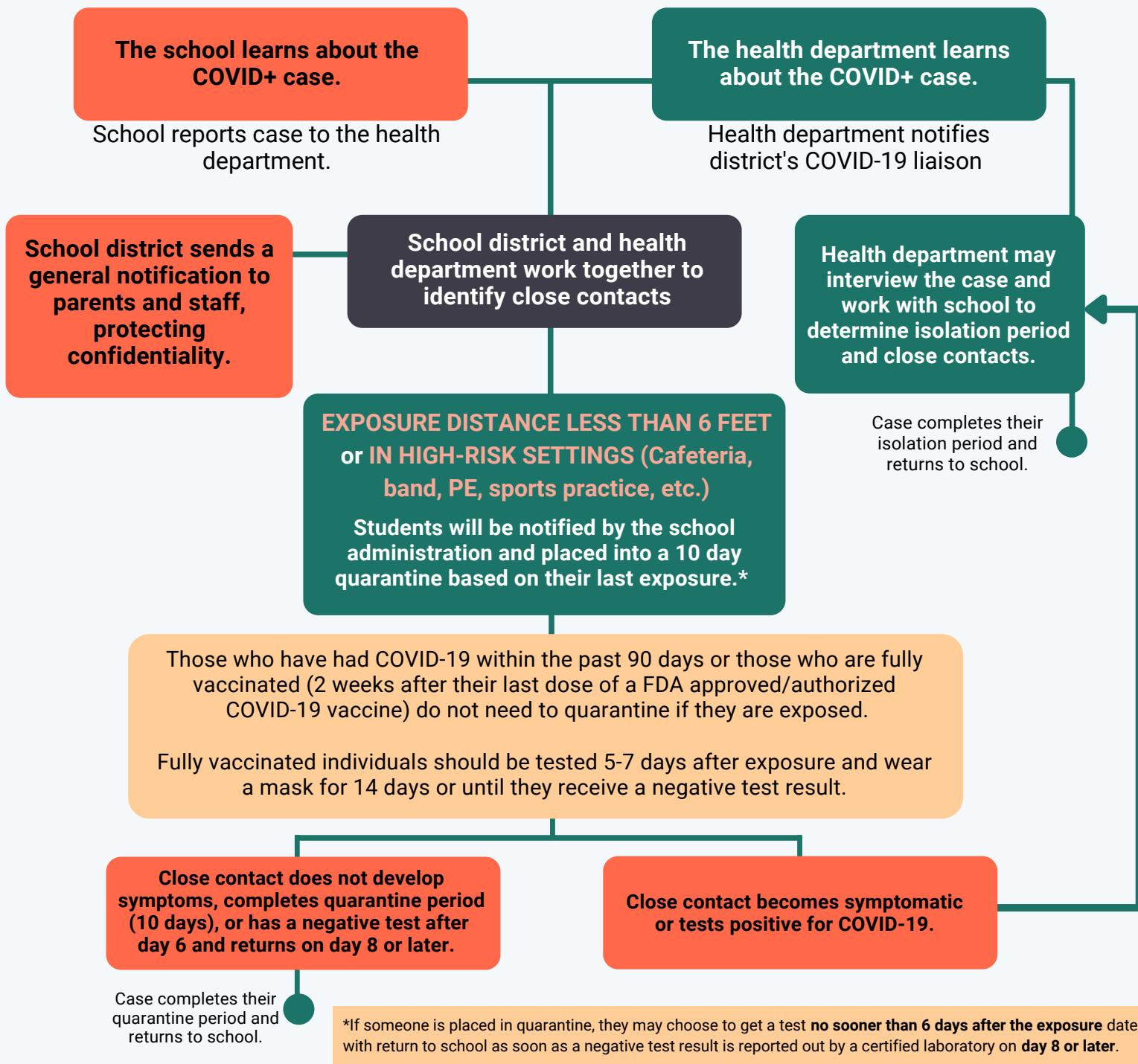


Process for a COVID-19 Case at School Where "Test to Stay Policy" is NOT in Place

In settings where, there is no "Test to Stay" policy in place.

What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

Student/Staff is confirmed positive for COVID-19 with diagnostic test



Quarantine and Isolation



Confirmed positive case of COVID-19



Should complete an isolation period of 10 days after either: (a) symptom onset; or (b) specimen collection for persons who were asymptomatic when tested.

Household close contact of COVID-19 positive case

An **unvaccinated individual** should quarantine for at least 10 days after last exposure to a COVID-19 case. A household member's last exposure may be the final day of isolation of the COVID positive household member.

A **fully vaccinated individual** who is a household contact of a COVID-19 positive individual [see page 8 "Household Close Contact Guidance"](#).



Close contact of COVID-19 case in Educational Settings, where there is **NO** "Test to Stay" Policy in place.

All close contacts are recommended to quarantine for **10 days** from the date of exposure.



Close contact of COVID-19 case in Educational Settings, where there **IS** a "Test to Stay" Policy in place.

****All quarantine options require person to self-monitor for symptoms until 14 days**

Close contact of 3-6 feet (with masks)

Person can remain in school, but must be notified of the potential exposure, should continue wearing a mask, and monitor for symptoms daily for 14 days.

Close contact within 3 feet (with masks) or within 6 feet (without masks)

- Quarantine for 10 days;
- Quarantine for 7 days, **test** on day 6 or 7, and **return** to school on day 8 after a negative result is reported;
- Persons willing to cooperate with serial testing (i.e., "Test to Stay") may avoid quarantine. **Serial testing** for close contacts must be administered by an identified representative from a preK-12 organization each morning prior to facility entry. BEDHD recommends **serial testing occurs daily** for 7 days. However, it is also acceptable to follow the MDHHS strategy of **every-other-day testing**, on days 1, 3, 5, and 7. Testing each school day is easier to explain to parents, allows cases to be identified more quickly, and reduces potential exposures. BEDHD encourages wearing masks while students are completing serial testing.
- If the serial testing option is elected, and testing days occur on a Saturday or Sunday, person does not need to be tested unless entering the Educational Institution or attending an event held at the Educational Institution on the weekend. If day 6 or 7 of testing occurs on a Saturday or Sunday, person must test on Monday prior to entering the Educational Institution.



An employee who is a close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive case, shall not report to work until one of the following conditions is met

- The quarantine period has passed since the employee last had close contact with the individual.
- The employee is advised by the local health department that they have completed their period of quarantine.



Fully vaccinated persons or persons who were a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 90 days and have been cleared from isolation

Fully vaccinated close contacts or close contacts who were a confirmed COVID-19 case in the last 90 days do not need to quarantine. Persons are encouraged to get tested 5-7 days after their exposure & wear a mask indoors for 14 days following the exposure.



Household close contact guidance



Individuals who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated and have ongoing exposure to a positive COVID-19 individual should:

- Get tested immediately.
- Begin quarantine immediately and continue to quarantine throughout the isolation period of the person with COVID-19 and continue to quarantine for an additional 10 days after the end of isolation for the person with COVID-19.
 - If multiple people in your household are COVID-19+, quarantine starts after the end of the end of isolation date for the most recently infected member of the household.
- Get tested again 5-7 days after the end of isolation of the infected household member.
 - If multiple people in your household are COVID-19 positive, get tested 5-7 days after the end of isolation for the most recently infected member of the household.
- Wear a mask when in contact with the person with COVID-19 throughout the person's isolation period.
- Wear a mask when in contact with other people in the home until quarantine ends.
- Isolate immediately if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive.

Individuals who are fully vaccinated and have ongoing exposure to a positive COVID-19 individual should:

- Get tested 5-7 days after their first exposure.
- Get tested again 5-7 days after the end of the isolation for the person with COVID-19.
 - If multiple people in your household are COVID-19 positive, get tested 5-7 days after the end of isolation for the most recently infected member of the household.
- Wear a mask when in contact with the person with COVID-19 throughout the person's isolation period.
- Wear a mask indoors in public until 14 days after the infected person's isolation period ends or until the fully vaccinated close contact receives their final test result.
- Isolate immediately if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive.

Mask Recommendations



Cloth Face Coverings Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) along with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommend the use of a face masks while inside for all K-12 students, staff and volunteers regardless of vaccination status.

Where are masks required?

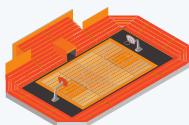


In any vehicles of an Educational Institution, including: transportation provided to and from education settings and to and from educationally affiliated extracurricular activities.

Where are masks recommended?



Inside any enclosed building or structure of an Educational Institutions or Educational Setting, including: youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, preschools, primary through secondary schools, and vocational schools.



While attending school athletics or extracurricular activities while inside any enclosed building or structure of an Education Institution.



Among school board members and any persons in attendance while at board meetings.

Chance of Transmission	Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carrier	Uninfected Person
HIGHEST	1 person	1 person
HIGH	1 person	1 person wearing mask
MEDIUM	2 people	2 people wearing masks
LOW	2 people	2 people wearing masks
LOWEST	1 person	2 people wearing masks with 6 ft. distance between them

Exceptions: Face shields, including plastic shields and hybrid products that have fabric around the edges of the shield, are not a replacement for cloth face coverings. For people who are medically unable to tolerate a face covering, a face shield may be worn alone instead.

COVID-19 Privacy and Contacts



What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

STEP
1

The school and health department learn about someone with COVID-19 (someone diagnosed with COVID-19 is a "case.")

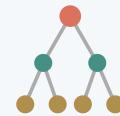
If you become aware of a case of COVID-19 in a student or staff member, notify BEDHD as soon as possible using the [COVID-19 Positive Reporting Form](#) (but within 24 hours). BEDHD will notify your contact person when they become aware of a case. Only a select few at the school will know the identity of the person to help figure out who were close contacts to the case. The person's identity is kept confidential to respect their privacy as well as following regulations of FERPA (for schools) and HIPAA (for the health department). Please report close contacts using the [BEDHD School Contact Tracing Form](#).

PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT!

STEP
2

Close contacts are identified and notified.

What is a close contact? It typically is someone being within 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) of an infected person for at least 15 minutes.



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

Close contacts are at risk of getting sick. They must be identified and be in quarantine unless they have already been fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated means that two weeks have passed since that person's last vaccine dose (completion of vaccine series).

...but what about contacts to close contacts?

Since close contacts are not yet known to be infected, the contacts to those contacts do not need to be in quarantine and do not need to be identified or contacted.

EXAMPLE

Bob sits next to Fred in the cafeteria, less than 3 feet away while they eat lunch. Fred gets sick with COVID-19. Bob is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Bob needs to be quarantined because they were in a high-risk setting without masks. Bob plays on the football team, and Fred does not. No one on the football team has been near Fred. Therefore, the football team does not need to be quarantined. Hopefully, Bob will not get sick and will be back to school and football in 10 days.



Cohorts Help to Limit COVID-19 Contacts



Cohorts: Keep close contacts to a minimum

One technique to minimize the number of people that need to be excluded from school is to group children together consistently.

EXAMPLES

Meet the Tadpole Pod



- This group of second graders has been assigned to a "pod". Their classroom has 4 pods of 5 children each.
- This group of students sits next to each other in the classroom, while still staying as far apart as practicable.
- They eat lunch together, travel the halls together, and go to recess together.

Meet the Wildcat Bubble



- This group of ninth graders has been assigned to a "bubble". There are many bubbles of 9th graders at their school.
- This group of students sits next to each other in the classroom, while still staying as far apart as practicable. They stay in the same room for math, English, and history, and their teachers come to them. They eat lunch together.

Cohorting can happen at many levels.

Small groups of 4-8 students --

breaking up a classroom, in space or time

Classroom level – keeping classrooms as contained as possible



Because cohorts keep the number of different people interacting to a minimum, it's a way to **limit the number of close contacts** that need to be quarantined if one person develops COVID-19.

How does COVID-19 spread?



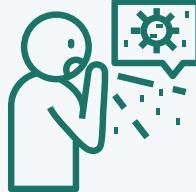
DROPLETS



This is the most likely mode of transmission. Respiratory droplets are small particles that enter the air when we cough, sneeze, laugh, sing, yell, and talk. Basically, they are little flecks of spit. Droplets tend to settle out of the air after traveling several feet from the person that released them. Droplets can also spread directly by kissing or sharing personal items like drinks, vape pens, silverware, or other things that go from one person's mouth to another.

We can reduce the spread of respiratory droplets to each other by wearing face coverings, avoiding large crowded groups, and staying more than 6 feet apart from each other.

AEROSOLS



Aerosols are even smaller particles that are created when we breathe, talk, sing, sneeze, or cough. They are lighter and can stay in the air much longer than respiratory droplets but dry up more quickly.

We can reduce the spread of aerosols by increasing outdoor air ventilation or filtering air that is being recirculated.

OBJECTS



This is the least likely mode of transmission. Objects can spread the COVID-19 virus when respiratory droplets or aerosols settle on them, leaving germs behind or if someone has the coronavirus on their hands from touching their nose or mouth than touches an object. COVID-19 appears to stay on objects for one to three days.

We can reduce the spread of COVID-19 via objects by frequent handwashing, not touching your face, frequent cleaning and disinfection, and use of automatic or touchless controls.

What are the chances of catching COVID-19?



While the definition of a close contact for COVID-19 is being within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes (cumulative) or more, other factors can also come into play.

INTENSITY OF EXPOSURE



The intensity of exposure refers to how much virus you were exposed to.

- Was the sick person really contagious when you were exposed to them?
- Were they coughing and sneezing without a mask on versus having no symptoms with a mask on? Did you kiss them?
- Did you share personal items like a drink or a vape pen?
- Did you sit right next to and have a face to face conversation with them or were you 6 feet away with your back to them?

The more virus you are exposed to, the more likely you are to get sick.

DURATION OF EXPOSURE



The duration of exposure refers to how long were you exposed. If you were in a conference room with someone contagious for COVID-19 for 6 hours a day while they were contagious for several days, yet your seat was not within 6 feet of them, you may still have had a long enough duration of exposure to that person, particularly to aerosols and objects in that room.

PERSONAL HEALTH



Your personal health, like how good your immune system is, also plays a part in whether or not you will get infected, as does whether you were using all the COVID-19 risk reduction methods possible.

VACCINATION



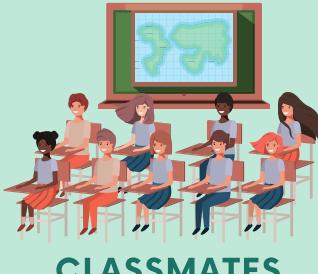
The risk of getting COVID-19 is extremely low in fully vaccinated people. It is so low that people who are fully vaccinated (meaning it's been two weeks since their last dose of the vaccine) do not need to quarantine if exposed but symptom-free.

AGE



Age also seems to play a part in risks for COVID-19. Children may be at lower risk of both catching and spreading COVID-19 to others, both to other children and to adults.

Who might be a close contact?



CLASSMATES

Classmates sitting or often within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19, either in the classroom or on the bus, for 15+ minutes.



LUNCH MATES

Lunch mates of person with COVID-19 if sitting within 6 feet for 15+ minutes. This is a higher risk time as face coverings cannot be worn.



PLAY MATES

Playmates on the playground or in gym within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15+ minutes.



TEAMMATES

Sports teammates within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15+ minutes.



OPPOSING TEAMMATES

Opposing teammates in sporting events that shared time on the field or court and were within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15+ minutes



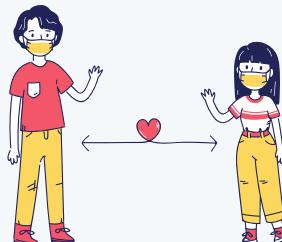
OTHER CLASSMATES

Any others that had interactions with someone with COVID-19 lasting over 15 minutes in confined areas such as bathrooms, office room, where distancing of 6 feet is difficult.



ENTIRE CLASSROOMS

If the contagious individual is a teacher and was frequently less than 6 feet away from students while teaching, the entire class may need to be on quarantine.



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.



OTHERS

Any other person outside of school that had similar exposure to a contagious individual is considered a close contact.