



Who is considered a close contact to someone? For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period, regardless of if masks were worn or not. A person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19 is considered infectious starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person had any symptoms or had their test specimen collected for COVID-19.

See link to calendar for various quarantine scenarios.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Per the MCS "Safety Precaution Manual," anyone who has been determined to be directly in close contact of a positive case automatically quarantines for 10 days from the point of last contact, regardless of if they get a negative test result or not. If someone was determined to be in close contact with a positive case, testing for that student would be recommended only if symptoms develop, per the Durham County Health Department. Testing would only be recommended only if the child becomes symptomatic, or late into the quarantine period. (even if negative, quarantine must continue for 10 days).

Household Member of a Student Tests Positive

A household member is newly identified as having COVID-19. Administrators work with local health officials to assess transmission levels and support contact tracing efforts.

Close contacts are notified, advised to stay home, (quarantine for 10 days), and to consult with their healthcare provider for evaluation and determination if testing is recommended. A close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period, regardless of if masks were worn or not. A person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19 is considered infectious starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person had any symptoms or had their test specimen collected for COVID-19.

Administrators or School Nurse communicates with teachers, staff, and parents, guardians, or caregivers the importance of COVID-19 mitigation strategies (e.g., staying home when sick, washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing).

Members of the immediate sick household and any direct close contacts can/are able to return to school after meeting criteria for ending home isolation.

Per HD, there's no need to quarantine household members of students who were in the cohort with the positive case. If the student was determined to be in close contact, the student only would need to quarantine for 10 days. The Health Department does not quarantine a contact of a contact, unless family symptoms develop. If COVID-19 like symptoms develop among any family members, defer to the MCS Decision Tree "Covid-19 Like Symptoms For a Student or Staff on Campus."

*In the case of a household member testing positive for COVID-19, and the student is unable to be isolated from this person, the student 14 day quarantine period would not start until the end of the infected person's isolation period. This leads to a longer quarantining period for the household member as their 14 day quarantine starts on the last day of the sick person's isolation period. See link to calendar for various quarantine scenarios.

What if a student, family, or staff member has received a Covid-19 vaccine?

People who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine after an exposure to someone with COVID-19 if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., at least 2 weeks after getting their 2nd dose in a two-dose series or 2 weeks after a one-dose vaccination)
- Have had no symptoms from when they were exposed to someone with COVID-19

Fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 symptoms

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as their risk of infection is low.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated, and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#anchor_1615143423092