STUDENT OR STAFF SICK OR DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19?

REPORT DETAILED POSITIVE OR PROBABLE COVID-19 CASES TO FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH (FCPH)

bit.ly/reportCV19

REPORT CASE NUMBERS TO FCPH WITHIN 24 HOURS
bit.ly/NumbersOnly

COVID-19 POSITIVE

If FCPH learns about a case that you haven’t reported to us we will contact the designated school leadership and school nurse. FCPH (or the local health department where the case lives) will contact the case and conduct an interview.

A positive or probable COVID-19 case should remain under home isolation for 10 days after symptoms begin AND until 24 hours after fever is gone without taking fever reducing medications AND symptoms improve. Cases may or may not receive an isolation release letter from Public Health. If the student or staff had no symptoms at any time they can return to school 10 days after the day the test was collected.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Sick student or staff can return to school once they meet the criteria above. It’s the school’s responsibility to make sure these requirements are met before allowing that individual to return. Due to different local health department processes and possible case investigation delays, schools should not require an isolation clearance letter before allowing the student or staff to return to school.

IDENTIFICATION OF CLOSE CONTACTS IN SCHOOLS

School should promptly work to gather the list of close contacts for the case starting 2 days before symptoms began or if the case does not have symptoms, 2 days before the date of test collection. Review class schedules, cohort groups, before and after care program, bus information and extracurricular activities to determine where close contact might have occurred.

A close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet or less of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more (combined total time) starting 2 days before their symptoms began. This is their “infectious period.” If they don’t have symptoms, it is two days before the day they were tested for COVID-19.

CLOSE CONTACTS

Staff and students identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case that meet the following criteria may be allowed to return to the classroom during their quarantine period (10 days):

• School has documented COVID-19 prevention policies
• Exposure occurred within a classroom environment or on school transportation
• Both case and contacts were correctly wearing masks (covering the nose and mouth) at all times

Contacts are still quarantined outside of classroom setting for 10 days. They should watch for symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or a new loss of taste or smell. As such, contacts may not participate in sports, extracurricular activities, before/after childcare, visiting with individuals outside their home, etc.

The only exception is to allow the contact to continue to attend school. See ODH guidance https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/covid-19-fact-sheet-k-12-exposure-and-quarantine.pdf for more details.

SHOULD CLOSE CONTACTS BE TESTED?

COVID-19 testing is not required for close contacts but should be encouraged if the person develops symptoms. If the person chooses to get tested, they should wait at least 4-7 days after the exposure occurred.

SICK STUDENT OR STAFF

If a student, staff, or volunteer begins to show COVID-19 symptoms or has a temperature above 100.4°F while at school, they must immediately be separated from all others.

Click here to see the In-Person Participation Algorithm.

Steps should be taken to send them home immediately.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

WHEN SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE OR IS SICK

• The school should perform deep cleaning in all areas where the case was present up to and including 2 days before the onset of the first reported symptom or 2 days before the test was performed in the case does not have symptoms.

• Someone who has been tested and is waiting for lab results should not be at school since that person is considered a suspect case and must be isolated in their residence.

• Per the ODH Director’s Order notifications should be sent to the parents or guardians of students who shared a classroom space or who have participated in a school activity with a case. Per the Order, separate notification should also be sent to parents or guardians of all students in the school.

• Honor the isolation guidance given to the case by the health department.

WHEN A STUDENT OR STAFF ARE A CLOSE CONTACT

• Schools are advised against requiring the contact to show proof of quarantine with a letter due to variations in quarantine letters.

• If the exposure happens outside of school (exposure from a teammate, family member, childcare, etc.) the individual will need to quarantine at home and should not be permitted to attend school.

• If individuals are not separated by 6 feet at lunch, quarantine (not allowed to attend school) will need to occur since masks cannot be worn. If it is unable to be determined if individuals were properly wearing masks, then error on the side of caution and quarantine (not allowing to return to school).

• Per ODH, athletes identified as contacts cannot return to active practice and play (practice, scrimmages or games) until after 14 days of symptom monitoring.
If you have been notified that you were a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, you should quarantine (stay home, not leave the house for any reason other than to seek medical care) for 10 days.

You should continue to monitor your health for symptoms until day 14, and always wear a mask.

**WHAT IS CONSIDERED A CLOSE CONTACT**

A close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet or less of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more (combined total time) starting 2 days before their symptoms began.

This is their “infectious period”. If they don’t have symptoms, it is two days before the day they were tested for COVID-19.

**Below are some scenarios to help you determine when you should stop quarantine.**

**IMPORTANT:**

Even if you test negative, you should continue to stay home for your entire quarantine period since you could still develop symptoms later or be infected and not have signs or symptoms.

**Scenario 1:**

Close contact with someone who has COVID-19. This could be an exposure to a friend, neighbor or coworker, or it could be an exposure to a household contact that is able to completely isolate (stay in a separate bedroom and have no further contact with anyone else in the home) from household members. **Close contact should quarantine for 10 days from the last time they were around the case. You should continue to monitor yourself for symptoms through day 14, and always wear a mask.**

**Scenario 2:**

Close contact with a household member diagnosed with COVID-19 and unable to avoid continual close contact. This could be due to the household member not having their own bedroom or the case needing to provide/receive care from someone else (either too young or needing medical care). **Close contact should quarantine until 10 days after the person with COVID-19 ends their isolation period.**

**Scenario 3:**

Close contact is under quarantine and then has an additional exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. This may happen when an additional household member becomes ill. **Close contact should restart the 10 days of quarantine based on their last exposure to the most recent case.**