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## K-12 Social Distancing & Quarantine Guidance

February 25, 2021

Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) defines the definition for a close contact as within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes of cumulative time. The purpose of this document is to provide clarification on the social distance definition in K-12 school settings the and requirements of modified quarantine as outline by ODH.

According to ODH's updated school guidance dated January 2021, individuals (staff or children) identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case that meet all of 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
- > Social distancing was maintained (6 feet preferred; minimum 3 feet)

As schools are returning to in-person learning modalities, though 6 feet of social distancing is preferred, per ODH, in order to use the [ODH K-12 School Quarantine Guidelines](#), including the modified quarantine, a minimum of 3 feet social distancing is required. **If a school cannot observe or maintain a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing, they would not be eligible for the modified quarantine.**

The close contact definition does not change and anyone within 6 feet of the case for greater than 15 minutes would be identified as a close contact. Close contacts identified during the contact tracing process in a school setting who are not eligible for modified quarantine must quarantine outside of classroom setting for 10 days. **They will not be allowed to attend school during their quarantine period as their school doesn't meet minimum social distancing standard of 3 feet.** As such, contacts may not participate in sports, extracurricular activities, before/after childcare, visiting with individuals outside their home, etc.

FCPH will continue to objectively offer guidance based on the latest science and information. Questions or concerns regarding a school's decision regarding spacing (e.g. 6, 3 or less) should be directed to your school.