



## COVID-19 Scenario Response Planning for Schools

### SCENARIO 1: A STAFF MEMBER OR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19...

#### Reporting:

Families should student report test results to their school nurse. School nurses will contact the Health Department.

#### Impact on the individual:

The COVID-19 positive individual will be required by the Health Department to isolate at home until they have met the criteria to discontinue isolation as established by the Local Health Department. Isolation for COVID-19 typically lasts a minimum of 10 days and until fever has resolved for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved.

#### Impact on the immediate grouping:

If the individual is in the school when the test result is returned, other children and staff in the same group do not need to be isolated or picked up immediately, however extra attention should be paid to keeping that group from mixing with any other group, and the **exposed individuals** in the group must quarantine at home and not return to school for 14 days.

Determining the infectious period: When speaking to the Health Department, they will want to know if the individual was in your school while they were considered infectious. The infectious period begins 2 days before symptoms start (or if they tested positive without any symptoms, two days before the test date).

Answers to the following questions will help determine if other children and staff in your school have been exposed:

- ` What date did the symptoms develop?
- ` What date did the individual get tested?
- ` When was the individual last in your facility?

School Nurse/Public Health Nurse will discuss this information and help to determine if there was an exposure at your school. If there was an exposure:

- ` anyone with close contact (within 6 ft for 15 minutes or more) is considered exposed and will need to be excluded from school. (Even if wearing a mask, shield or behind a plexiglas barrier)
- ` exposed individuals will need to quarantine at home for a full quarantine period (14 days from their last exposure).
- ` the Health Department will help you determine exact dates of quarantine

### **Impact on the school:**

When stable groups have been maintained (including children and staff), there would likely be no additional exposures outside of the immediate grouping. This means that any temporary pivots to all remote could be limited to only the stable group which the COVID-19 positive individual was a member of.

Additional considerations may include:

- If other staff or children from outside the individual's group had close contact with the individual while they were infectious, those additional contacts may also need to be quarantined.
- Any additional household contacts and/or siblings (if the confirmed case is a child) will also need to be excluded for a quarantine period as determined by the health department in partnership with school staff.

If you have additional questions about this scenario or are not sure if the staff member had contact with students or staff because of their specific job, make sure to discuss them with the school nurse when they respond to your report.

### **Communicating with families:**

The Health Department and School Administration will work with you to understand which families need which level of detail and if there are any more specific communications that need to be shared.

## **SCENARIO 2: A MEMBER OF A CHILD'S HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19...**

### **Reporting:**

Family should report to school nurse/principal.

### **Impact on the individual:**

The child is now considered a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual and should be excluded from school until they complete a full quarantine period at home which lasts 14 days from the date of their last exposure to the confirmed case. The individual's quarantine will be determined by the Health Department based upon additional information regarding the household and exposure setting.

### **Impact on the child's immediate grouping at school:**

In most cases where a household member is the positive case, the child that attends school is only a contact and not a positive case. If the child is now quarantining at home, it is unlikely to have been an exposure at your school. The remaining children and staff in the classroom do not need to be excluded and the classroom does not need to close at this time.

If the child moves from a contact to a confirmed positive then follow guidelines in Scenario 1. Exposure, if any, was limited because the student was in quarantine.

**Communicating with families:**

You are not required to send a general notification to families when a child or staff is named as a contact

**SCENARIO 3: A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER IS IDENTIFIED AS A CONTACT OF SOMEONE WHO IS NOT THEIR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER...**

**Reporting:**

Staff should let their school nurse know they are identified as a close contact and follow all personnel guidance.

**Impact on the individual:**

Anyone who is identified as a close contact to a confirmed case needs to be excluded from school and needs to stay at home for 14 days from the date of their last exposure to the confirmed case. This will be monitored by the local health department were the staff or student lives. If the contact is not a Norwood resident, the Health Department can contact the community and exchange information regarding the case.

**Impact on the grouping and school:**

If the child or staff member who is a contact has not had any symptoms and has not tested positive themselves, they do not represent an exposure to others in the school. If the original COVID positive individual has not been in the school, no additional children or staff would be considered a close contact, and therefore no further action needs to be taken.

If the child or staff moves from a contact to a confirmed positive then follow guidelines in Scenario 1.

**Communicating with Families:**

You are not required to send a general notification to families when a child or staff is named as a contact

**SCENARIO 4: THE SCHOOL HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED A POSITIVE CASE AND NOW ADDITIONAL CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 HAVE OCCURRED IN STAFF, CHILDREN, OR A CHILD'S HOUSEHOLD MEMBER...**

**Reporting:**

Case should be reported to the school nurse who will report it to the Health Department.

**Impact on the school:**

Health Department and the school nurse will work to determine if the new cases are related to the first reported case, or if the new cases are unrelated. If there is evidence of transmission within the school, additional guidance and recommendations may be applicable and will be provided by the Health Department and School Administration.

**Communicating with families:**

The Health Department and School Administration will help you determine what needs to be shared with families broadly and what additional specifics needs to be shared with individual families.

**SCENARIO 5: AN INDIVIDUAL BECOMES SYMPTOMATIC WHILE IN AT SCHOOL...****Reporting:**

Student and Staff should report to School Nurse.

**Impact on the individual:**

If a child begins showing symptoms while already at school, they should be isolated as quickly as possible into a previously-designated area, away from close contact other children and adults, until they can be picked up. If an adult begins showing symptoms while already in the school they must remove themselves and immediately go home or arrange for pick up to go home.

Individuals who develop symptoms should be assessed by a medical provider.

**Impact on the school:**

Other children and staff should be watched for symptoms, but no additional action needs to be taken at this time.

**Communicating with families:**

No reporting to families is required for individuals who are symptomatic only.

**SCENARIO 6: A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER IS QUARANTINING DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATION REGARDING AN EXPOSURE TO A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19...****Reporting:**

No reporting is required at this time.

**Impact on the individual:**

In this case, the individual in the school is has not been exposed themselves, so there is no action needed at this time. At this time, the individual can still attend school as long as the quarantining household member does not develop symptoms or test positive.

**SCENARIO 7: AN INDIVIDUAL HAS A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER WHO IS WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF A COVID-19 TEST.****Reporting:**

There is no reporting required while a household member is waiting for a test result.

**Impact on the individual:**

If the household member is not symptomatic, the individual may continue to attend school. If the household member's test is returned as a positive, please refer to Scenario 2.

**Impact on the school:**

There is no impact on the school at this time.

**Communicating with families:**

No reporting to families is required for household members awaiting test results only.

## **FAQs**

### **Q: Will I be notified if there is a positive case in my child's classroom?**

**A:** Yes, you will be notified when an individual has tested positive and is a confirmed case. Close contacts will be asked to quarantine and the whole district will be notified regardless of if their child is a close contact or not.

Once a case is identified, the Health Department will work with the teacher, school nurse and principal to identify close contacts. After the investigation is complete the whole class and school families will be notified. If your family was not contacted during the investigation phase, your child was not identified as a close contact.

### **Q: What is a close contact and how are they identified?**

**A:** A close contact is an individual that was within 6 feet of a confirmed case for about 15 minutes while the case was infectious – two days before onset of symptoms or two days before positive test if the case is an asymptomatic case.

In the school environment with a student case, close contacts will be determined by talking to the school nurse, teacher, principal and other staff in the classroom. With adult cases in the school, the School Nurse/Public Health Nurse will interview the case and determine who meets the criteria above. It is only through the interview and investigation that close contacts are identified.

With proper social distancing, there should be few close contacts but we will always err on the side of caution and quarantine individuals who are questionable.

### **Q: There is someone in my child's classroom who is in quarantine and it is unrelated to an exposure in the school? Does my child need to quarantine and will I be notified?**

**A:** An individual in quarantine is a close contact and is not a confirmed case. There was no exposure to the school, so there is no need to inform families. The Health Department and School Nurse will monitor the close contacts in quarantine and if they become symptomatic and/or test positive, will conduct an interview and investigation to determine their close contacts. If the close contact was properly quarantining, there should be no additional individuals in the school exposed.

### **Q: If someone is exposed, can they spread the virus?**

**A:** Just because someone was exposed does not mean they will get COVID-19 and be able to spread the virus. The exposed individual is hopefully identified and placed into quarantine, so if they do become a case, they did not expose anyone else. Many people go through quarantine, after exposure, and do not develop COVID-19. If they do develop the illness it is usually 4-5 days after exposure, but can be up to 14 days. This allows some time to investigate and do the proper contact tracing.

### **Q: If a child in classroom A is quarantined, is their sibling in classroom B also quarantined.**

**A:** No, since the child in classroom A is not a case, their household contacts were not exposed. If the child in classroom A becomes symptomatic and/or tests positive, the sibling would then be quarantined as a household contact.

**Q: Child shows COVID symptoms at school and is sent home, when can they come back?**

**A:** The family will be advised to seek medical attention. If the medical provider diagnoses a specific medical illness (strep throat, flu, ear infection, etc.), your child may return to school when feeling better and fever-free for at least 24 hours. If the medical provider feels your child's symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, a PCR test should be done, and the child should remain at home until the test results are obtained. With a negative test result, the child may return to school when symptoms have resolved (they are feeling better and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours). With a positive test result – child must remain at home for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms and be cleared to return to school by the Norwood Health Department.