



DADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Modified Quarantine for COVID-19 in Classroom Setting

A growing body of evidence suggest that the risk for transmission of COVID to children is significantly lower than the risk to adolescents and adults. Additionally, Governor Parson's announced changing school guidance from Missouri's departments of health and education (DHSS, DESE). In response to this information, and the negative educational impacts of quarantine for students, the Dade County Health Department is implementing a modified quarantine process that applies only to K-12 schools in Dade County.

Modified quarantine is solely an effort to keep children in the learning environment, while managing the risk for the spread of COVID-19. The local educational system has proactively demonstrated the ability to develop and implement mitigation strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19 and serve as a key partner in contact tracing. This, in combination with the reduced risk of transmission to children, create the only scenario the Dade County Health Department is examining this modified approach. Future research and evidence will be taken into consideration for its ongoing implementation.

Based on the current positivity rate for the county, the local health care system capacity, and the increased number of cases in the last 28 days the Dade County Health Department Board of Trustees will adopt the following modified quarantine guidance to apply to Dade County Schools until December 31, 2020. Guidance will be reviewed at that time to determine the need to continue with the modified quarantine guidelines or revise procedures at that time.

Criteria for Modified Quarantine

Criteria for modified quarantine must be met, before being applied:

1. Schools must have a mask mandate in place.
2. Modified quarantine does not apply to all contacts to positive cases of COVID-19. This applies for transmission from child to child and adult to child. This does not apply to potential transmission to an adult. Evidence suggests that adults are more likely to transmit and acquire the virus.
3. The school shall maintain significant mitigation strategies.
 - a. Classrooms must be designed to limit spread and maximize social distancing
 - b. Increased hand hygiene activities
 - c. Screening for COVID-19 and immediately isolate anyone with symptoms of COVID-19
4. Face masks must be worn at all times. Any time without mask use while around the infectious individual will result in standard quarantine practices. These times would include lunch, recess, and bus transportation.
5. Face shields are acceptable alternatives to masking
6. If either the infectious individual or others around them are not wearing masks properly modified quarantine is not allowed.

7. Modified quarantine begins when there is a case with exposure in the classroom. If additional cases occur within the same classroom or are linked to another classroom, standard quarantine practices will occur. Standard quarantine practices will remain in place until for that classroom until there is a minimum 14 days without additional cases.
8. Modified quarantine only applies to the educational environment during the school day. Exposures outside of the normal school day, including extracurricular activities are not considered for modified quarantine.
9. Modified quarantine will suspend in facilities that are experiencing multiple clusters of disease resulting from school-based transmission. During periods of suspension, standard quarantine practices will be utilized.

Modified Quarantine

Close contacts are defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting from 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. When the above criteria are met modified quarantine may be used. Modified quarantine allows for a student to continue to attend school. During the period in which a student would be in quarantine, the following must occur:

1. Outside of the regular school day educational activities, the child must quarantine at home (they may not participate in extracurricular activities)
2. Face masks are to be worn at all times, except while eating or drinking.
 - a. When the mask is removed the student must be a minimum of 6 feet from others.
 - b. Children are not to participate in any activity in which a mask cannot be worn.
3. Monitoring for symptoms must occur daily within the school day.
4. A screening PCR test for COVID-19 is encouraged between 5-10 days from the most recent exposure.

If the student in modified quarantine develops any symptoms of COVID-19, they should immediately be isolated and excluded from school, isolate at home and be tested for COVID-19.



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