

Blackstone-Millville Regional School District Close Contact Protocol

Close contact of student or staff who tests positive for COVID-19

A close contact is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet of an infectious individual while indoors for a cumulative time of 15 minutes per 24 hours. An individual is considered infectious 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or 48 hours before a positive test for an asymptomatic individual and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated.

Individuals need to quarantine if:

- They have classroom exposure and are within 3 feet of the infectious individual, even if masked.
- They are 3-6 feet from the infectious individual, masked, and become symptomatic within the 14 days after exposure.
- They are within 6 feet of an infectious individual at lunch or any other activity within the school building when they are unmasked.
- They have any other exposure to the infectious individual as determined by school personnel, family, or the local Board of Health.

School exposure:

- If symptom-free, close contacts exposed at school may either quarantine for 7 days or participate in “Test and Stay”.
- If they chose to quarantine, they must have a PCR test for COVID-19 on **Day 5** or later.
- They must quarantine for a **full 7 days** from the last date of exposure (Day “0”).
- Day #7 is the last day of quarantine and they are able to resume normal activities and may return to work/school on **Day #8** if:
 - They provide a negative PCR test.
 - They have not had any symptoms up to this point.
 - The individual and/or their parent/guardian agree to conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and will self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.
- If they chose to Test and Stay, close contacts can remain in school and do not have to quarantine, as long as they:
 - Are asymptomatic.
 - Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain at least 3 feet of distance from other individuals whenever possible.

- Take a rapid antigen test (e.g., BinaxNOW) on each school day and receive a negative result. When the 7 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
- Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and will self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

Outside of School Exposure:

- Close contacts must have a PCR test for COVID-19 on **Day 5** or later. If the student/staff member is not tested, they must quarantine for the full 14 days.
- They will need to quarantine for a **full** 10 days from the last date of exposure.
- The nurse leader will go over the 10 day period with the individual/family.
- Day “0” is the last day that you had contact with the infected individual.
- Day #10 is the LAST day of quarantine and they are able to resume normal activities and return to work/school on **Day #11** if:
 - They provide a negative PCR test.
 - They have not had any symptoms up to this point.
 - The individual and/or their parent/guardian agree to conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and will self-isolate if new symptoms develop.

The student/staff member need to remain out of school for 14 days after exposure **IF any of the following apply:**

- They are not tested. Quarantine may only be shortened with a negative PCR test collected on Day 5 or later or participate in “Test and Stay”
- The individual experienced **ANY** symptoms during the quarantine period, **even** if they have a **negative** COVID-19 test.
- They are unable to conduct active monitoring of symptoms.

Please note that individuals who had COVID-19 in the last 90 days (from day of symptom onset or day of first positive test if asymptomatic), AND individuals who have received either two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines or a single dose of the Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine, at least 14 days ago are not required to quarantine following an exposure **if symptom-free**.