

# Smithville Public Schools



## COVID-19 Plan for Return to School

Based on CDC Guidelines and Oklahoma State Health Department

June 21, 2021

Revised September 2, 2021

*Plans in this document are subject to change as new information becomes available or as new situations arise related to COVID-19*

# COVID-19 Plan for Return to School

Based on CDC Guidelines and Oklahoma State Health Department

September 2, 2021

As we begin the new school year, we are working diligently to provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff. As always, safety is our top priority. Special considerations and accommodations to account for the diversity of youth should be made, especially for our vulnerable populations, including those who are medically fragile, live in poverty, have developmental challenges, or have special health care needs or disabilities, with the goal of a safe return to school.

This plan is a working document that serves as a framework for administrators, employees, and families. This plan may be modified based on ongoing situational analysis and guidance from the local health authorities, the *Centers for Disease Control*, *The American Academy of Pediatrics* and the *Oklahoma State Department of Education*. The safety of our students, our employees, and the community is our utmost concern.

Smithville Public Schools acknowledges and understands the importance of implementing these health and safety measures for our students and staff. We also understand these protocols in no way guarantees a student or staff member will NOT transmit or contract COVID-19. In an overabundance of caution the District will continue to follow recommendations provided by medical professionals and local health officials. SPSD will always emphasize the safety and health of students, staff and the community.

Five key prevention strategies:

1. Prioritize: Universal and correct use of masks.
2. Prioritize: Physical distancing and/or use of student/staff grouping (cohorting)
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

## Day to Day District Operations

- ❑ All staff will “self screen” daily. Staff that report to work are certifying they have screened themselves and are healthy, (screening checklist will be provided.)
- ❑ Staff and families with specific illnesses or health concerns should communicate with building principals to discuss possible accommodations.
- ❑ Parents will be asked to “self screen” students each day before sending them to school. If students arrive at school - parents are “certifying” them healthy. A screening checklist will be provided to parents in order to maintain health records for each student.
- ❑ As recommended by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Association of Pediatricians and by the Oklahoma State Department of Education *Oklahoma School Safety Protocols* which are based on the Oklahoma State Department of Health *Oklahoma Covid-19 Alert System*, it is strongly recommended that all students and all staff wear a face covering while in buildings, facilities, vehicles, classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and other common areas, while standing in cafeteria or other lines, and in any area where Social Distancing can not be maintained.
- ❑ Facial coverings may include but are not limited to; disposable masks, cloth masks, gators/neck buffs, bandanas, scarves or clear face shields.
- ❑ Students and staff may remove face coverings while in PE or athletics, but social distancing guidelines still apply.
- ❑ Students must have a temperature below 100 degrees for 24 hours WITHOUT medication before returning to school.
- ❑ Teachers are encouraged to maximize social distancing in their classrooms to the greatest extent possible.
- ❑ All teachers will maintain a seating chart in each classroom to assist in contact tracing in the case of a confirmed case.

- ❑ Any staff member or student who exhibits a fever of 100 degrees or more will be immediately isolated in a predetermined isolation room and immediately sent home.
- ❑ Hand sanitizer stations have been installed across the campus.
- ❑ When feasible, teachers should open windows to increase the flow of fresh air through the classroom.
- ❑ Teachers and administrators will stress the importance of following the CDC guidelines of social distancing, the recommendation of face coverings, hand washing, hand sanitizer use, if you're sick, stay home, etc.
- ❑ Teachers and administrators will follow the *Smithville School Covid-19 Response Guide* for responding to exposure or confirmation of a positive COVID19 case.
- ❑ Students are highly encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school.
- ❑ On campus visitors will be limited. Parents should schedule an appointment with the building office prior to visiting the campus.
- ❑ Visitors to any Smithville Public School facility are strongly encouraged to wear a mask and may be subject to a health screening.
- ❑ Grab and Go meals will be provided for students unable to attend school or who are enrolled in Virtual Only instruction.
- ❑ Traditional on-campus learning will be available to all parents who choose for their students to attend school each day.
- ❑ Additionally, parents will have the option to apply for a virtual learning option (Smithville Virtual) for their children, initially, or at any point as the year progresses. Parents who choose the virtual learning option for their students will be required to commit to remote instruction for a full semester. Short term distance learning will be available for students who are quarantined or in isolation.

## Transportation

- ❑ Smithville School will be providing student transportation through normal bus routes. We will attempt to maximize air flow by leaving bus windows down when possible.
- ❑ Smithville School is recommending that parents provide alternate transportation (parent drop off and pick up) for all students that normally ride a bus to minimize the number of students on the bus. This will help reduce numbers on the bus where social distancing is not practical.
- ❑ Parents will "self evaluate" students each day with the self screening checklist provided prior to leaving for the bus stop and school. Before sending a student to the "bus stop" the parent must "certify" that student is healthy and can attend school.
- ❑ **Students presenting symptoms or having a temperature of 100 degrees or above will not be allowed to ride the bus.** Parents must be responsible for students that are not able to ride a bus.
- ❑ It is strongly suggested that all students wear a face covering while on the bus and must use hand sanitizer when entering the bus.
- ❑ The bus driver will maintain a daily seating chart to aid in contact tracing in the case of a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- ❑ Buses will be disinfected after completion of each route and before they are allowed to pick up any more students or staff.
- ❑ Bus drivers will self screen before each route.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting CDC Guidelines**

- ❑ We will continue routine cleaning and disinfecting using the appropriate EPA recommended cleaning and disinfectant products.
  
- ❑ It is strongly suggested that custodians wear masks and gloves when disinfecting facilities.
  
- ❑ Routine cleaning with soap and water and other cleaning products will decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure to students, staff, and others.
  
- ❑ Disinfection using the EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 can also help reduce the risk. Frequent disinfection of surfaces and objects touched including tables, keyboard, doorknobs, toilets, lightswitches, faucets and sinks, countertops, handles, touch screens, desks and phones will be done.
  
- ❑ Consider what items can be removed from campuses, classrooms and common areas to reduce frequent handling or contact from multiple people.
  
- ❑ Outdoor surfaces will be cleaned with targeted use of disinfectants. Outdoor hard surfaces and objects frequently touched by multiple people will be disinfected regularly.
  
- ❑ Custodians will disinfect empty classrooms throughout the day with EPA approved disinfectant.
  
- ❑ Teachers will be encouraged to use disinfectant wipes and disinfectant spray in their classrooms regularly.

## Employee Exposure Guidelines

**Employees with COVID-like symptoms (with no known exposure or close contact to someone with COVID-19) should:**

1. Employees with a fever should stay at home until they are free of fever (100 degrees) and signs of a fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications
2. Notify the site principal or department director of status

### **Employees with known exposure to COVID-19**

Definition of COVID-19 exposure

Individuals in close contact with an infected person. Close contact includes: (Close Contact is defined by: Someone who was within [6 feet of an infected person](#) (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for [discontinuing home isolation](#).

- **Exception:** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) where
  - both students were engaged in consistent and [correct](#) use of [well-fitting masks](#); and
  - other [K–12 school prevention strategies](#) (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

*Public Health Recommendations:* Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should [quarantine](#). However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:

- People who have been [fully vaccinated](#)
- People who were [previously diagnosed with COVID-19](#) within the last three months)

2. Employee has been near but NOT in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, there is a low risk of infection and employee may continue to go to work and school but should monitor health for 14 days.
3. Employees in close contact with someone who HAS a confirmed case of COVID-19
  - A. Notify your supervisor, contact your physician and do NOT come to work
  - B. Employee may return to work after
    - (1) Quarantine for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness, **OR**
    - (2) Employee has a confirmed NEGATIVE COVID test and 3 days of being fever free with no fever reducing medication.
      - (a) Notify your site principal or supervisor of your continued status or test results

**Employees returning to work if confirmed to have COVID-19:**

1. If an employee has previously tested positive for COVID-19, they can discontinue home isolation and return to work under the following conditions:
  - A. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since a negative COVID test or physician's release defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND,
  - B. Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) AND
  - C. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery - defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications

# Student Exposure Guidelines

## Definition of COVID-19 exposure

Individuals in close contact with an infected person. Close contact includes: (Close Contact is defined by: Someone who was within [6 feet of an infected person](#) (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for [discontinuing home isolation](#).

- **Exception:** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) where
  - both students were engaged in consistent and [correct](#) use of [well-fitting masks](#); *and*
  - other [K–12 school prevention strategies](#) (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

*Public Health Recommendations:* Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should [quarantine](#). However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:

- People who have been [fully vaccinated](#)
- People who were [previously diagnosed with COVID-19](#) within the last three months)

## Exposed Students:

Smithville School will utilize guidance provided by the OKDH and McCurtain County Health Department to provide safe options for students who have been in close contact with a positive case. Please see those charts on pages 9-12 of this document.

## Students returning to school if confirmed to have COVID-19:

### **Students who are awaiting test results or have tested positive should NOT attend school.**

Students who test positive may return to school 10 days after symptoms started AND at least 24 hours have passed since fever resolved (without medication) AND symptoms have improved.



## Assessing Symptomatic Persons for COVID-19

Checking students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms can pose challenges given the similarities between certain COVID-19 symptoms and seasonal allergies; challenges with younger persons recognizing when they are sick due to mild symptoms; and the fact that some persons may have COVID-19 and not have any symptoms at all.

OSDH has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school and/or tested for COVID-19:

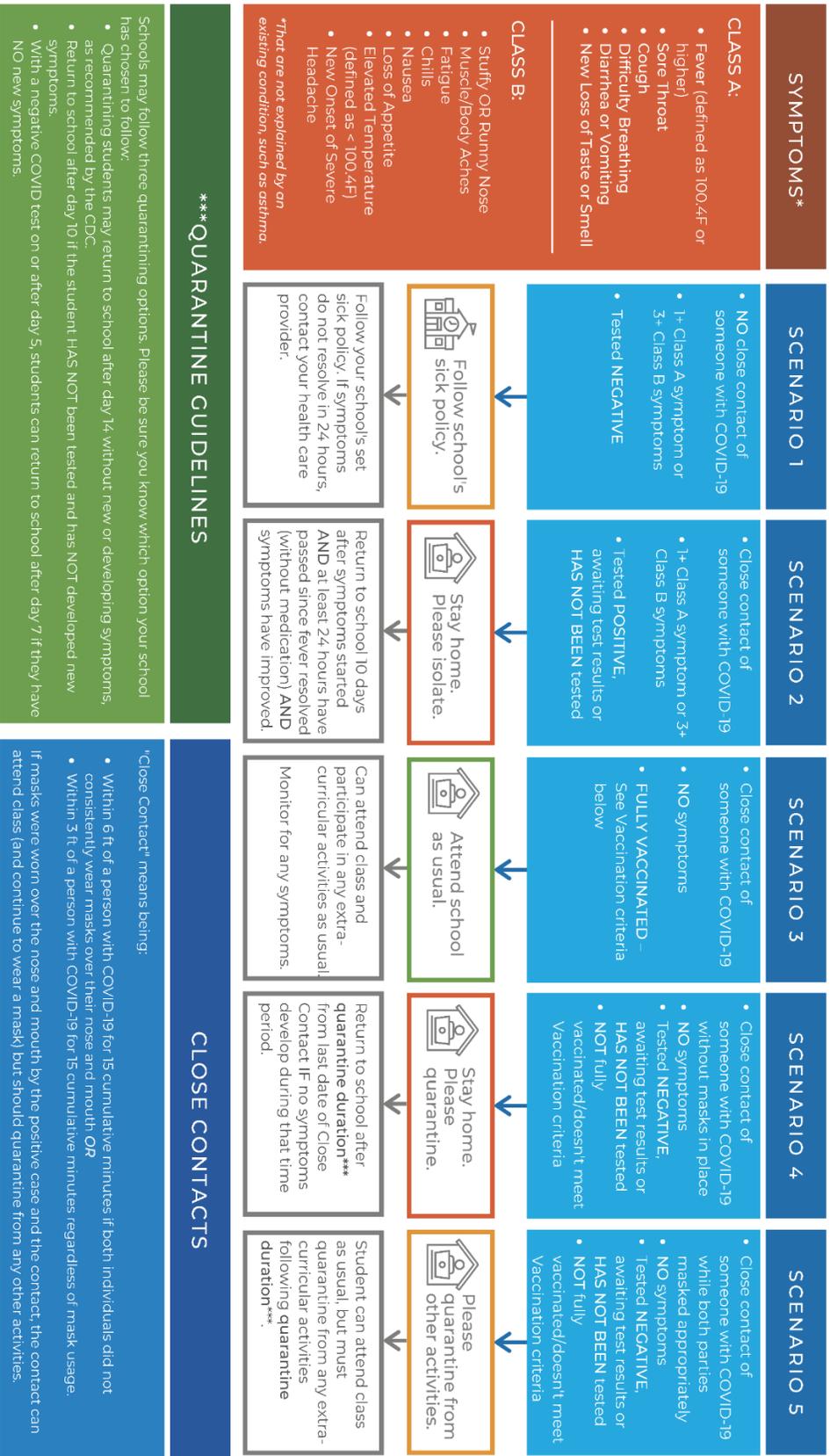
<b>"A" Symptoms</b>	<b>"B" Symptoms</b>
Fever $\geq 100.4$ F	Nasal Congestion/Stuffy Nose
Sore Throat	Runny Nose
Cough	Muscle/Body Aches
Difficulty Breathing	Fatigue
Diarrhea or Vomiting	Chills
New Loss of Taste or Smell	Nausea
	Loss of Appetite
	Elevated Temperature $< 100.4$ F
	New Onset of Severe Headache
<b>Recommend testing when:</b>	
Person has 1 "A" Symptom OR	
Person has 3 "B" Symptoms	

Source: CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention [Guidance for K-12 Schools \(CDC.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/schools/operational-strategy)



# COVID-19 Student Symptom Scenarios

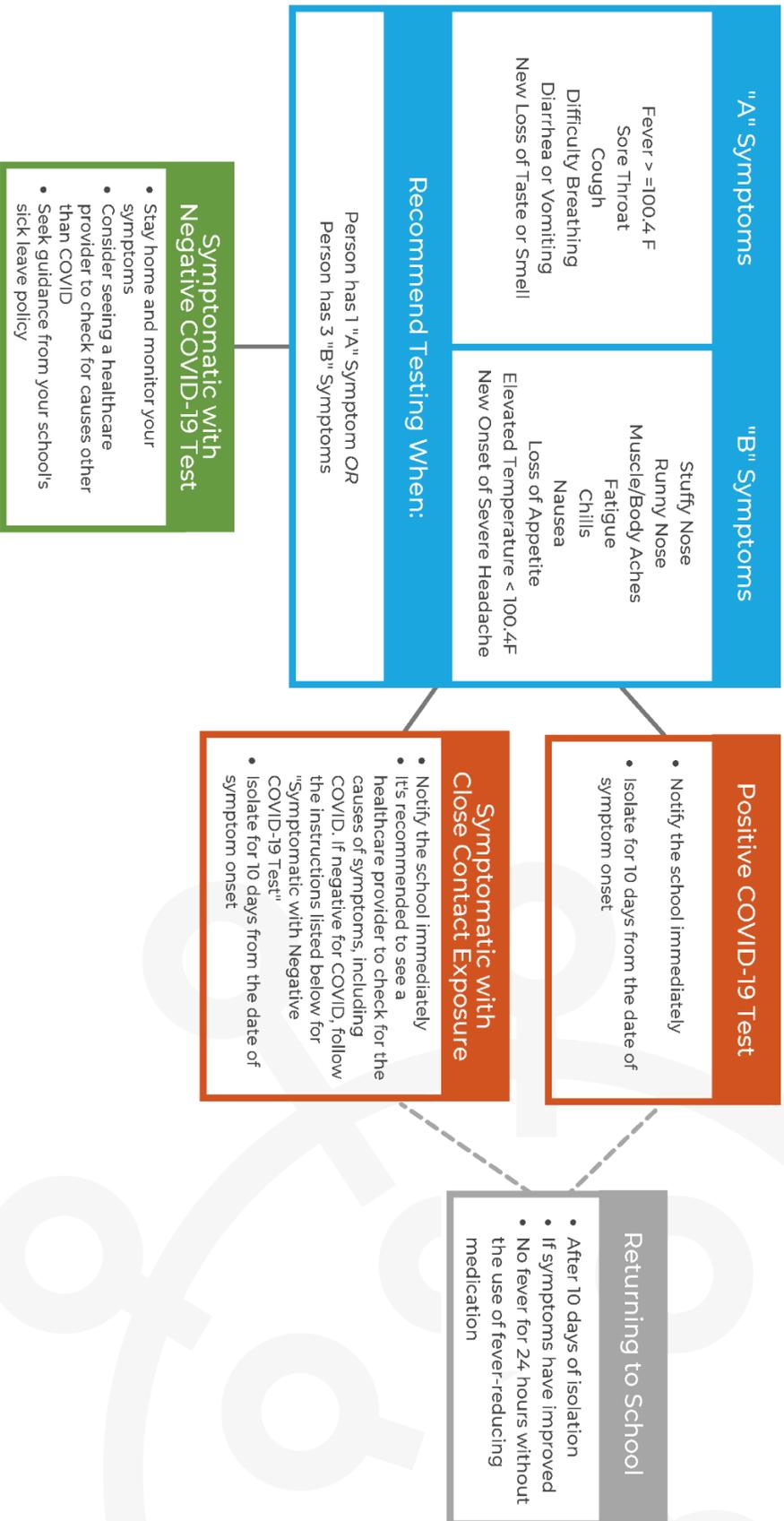
As of 7/23/2021



Vaccinated persons who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet the following criteria\*\*  
 1. Are fully vaccinated – at least two weeks have passed since their second dose (or single J&J dose); 2. Have not had symptoms in healthcare settings are an exception and should continue to quarantine as before.  
 \*\*Vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings are an exception and should continue to quarantine as before.



## COVID-19 Symptomatic Illness Assessment



As of 7/23/2021



# Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with COVID-19 Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing

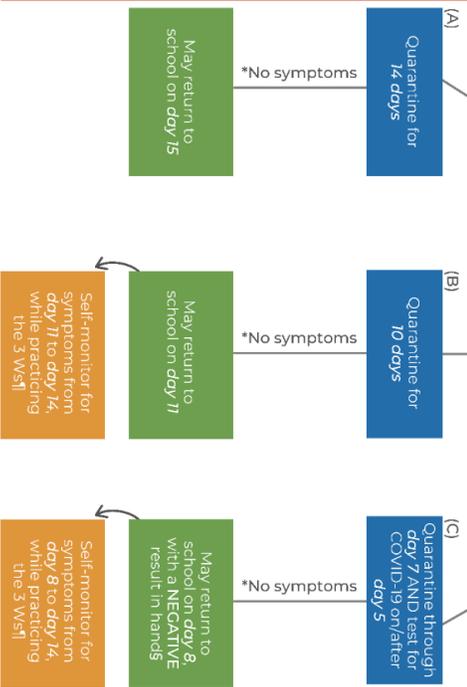
## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS\*

- CLASS A:**
- Fever (defined as 100.4F or higher)
  - Sore Throat
  - Cough
  - Difficulty Breathing
  - Diarrhea or Vomiting
  - New Loss of Taste or Smell

- CLASS B:**
- Stuffy OR Runny Nose
  - Muscle/Body Aches
  - Fatigue
  - Chills
  - Nausea
  - Loss of Appetite
  - Elevated Temperature (defined as < 100.4F)
  - New Onset of Severe Headache

\*That one not explained by an existing condition, such as asthma.

A student has been in **Close Contact\*\*** with an individual who has COVID-19 AND has **NO** symptoms

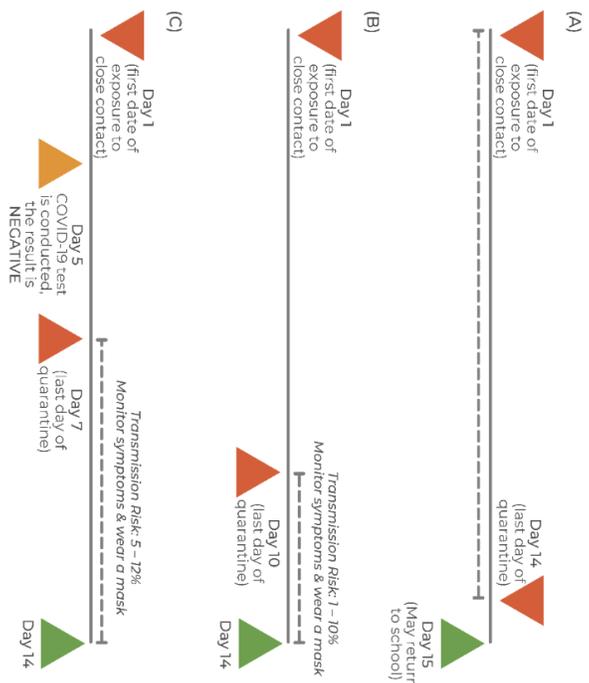


## \*\*CLOSE CONTACTS

"Close Contact" means being: Within 6 ft of a person with COVID-19 for 15 cumulative minutes if both individuals did not consistently wear masks over their nose and mouth OR Within 3 ft. of a person with COVID-19 regardless of mask usage.

## THE 3 WS

- The 3 WS to help reduce your risk of COVID-19 are:
- Wear a mask
  - Wash your hands
  - Watch your distance (stay 6 feet apart)



§ For people with a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, a negative result must be obtained from a COVID-19 test done on or after day 5 after the last date of exposure to the person with COVID-19. The test can be a rapid antigen or a PCR test.

As of 7/23/2021