

# Ocosta School District

## Covid 19 Frequently Asked Questions

As the Ocosta School District is experiencing positive cases of COVID-19, we have developed this FAQ for families.

### What determines if an individual is a close contact?

- **Close contact definition in K-12 classroom:** Students who were wearing a face covering and were within 3 feet of another student with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes over the course of 24 hours.
- **Close contact definition anywhere else at school and between students and adults:** Someone within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes over the course of 24 hours.

### Who will contact me if my child is a close contact?

The Ocosta School District makes every effort to contact all close contacts as soon as possible. We first attempt with a phone call and if we are unable to speak with a parent or guardian, we will then send a letter home with the student.

General letters are sent home or emailed, to families/guardians, if there is a case in the school for notification purposes only. The district will attempt to contact close contacts as they are determined.

### How long does my student have to stay home if they are a close contact?

Students identified as a close contact must stay home and away from others for 14 Days in case they were infected and contagious. **Your child may be exempt from quarantine if they are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms.** They should be tested 3 to 5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Those who are not fully vaccinated, should be tested 5-7 days after exposure.

**Close contacts who had confirmed COVID-19 in the past three months, have recovered and do not have symptoms, do not need to quarantine** but should watch for symptoms and get tested if symptoms develop. For a student to attend school under this qualification, the parent/guardian will need to present the test results from a lab, including the student's name, test date and test results.

## How long does my student have to stay home if they are positive for Covid-19?

If a person tests positive for Covid-19 by a molecular or antigen test, they can return to school when the following criteria are met:

- 10 days since positive test specimen collection date (up to 20 days for those for those who are severely ill or severely immunocompromised), **AND**
- 24 hours after fever resolves without use of fever-reducing medications, **AND**
- Symptoms have improved

*This isolation guidance applies regardless of vaccination status.*

## What is “Test to Stay”? What students are eligible for Test to Stay?

Ocosta School District (OSD), following guidance found in [Washington Department of Health \(WA DOH\) K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year](#) will implement the quarantine method called “test to stay”. This policy requires approval from the local county health jurisdiction, which is Grays Harbor County Public Health (GHC PH). Upon consultation with GHC PH, this program was approved for use by OSD. Both GHC PH and OSD find value in the program as a type of quarantine due to its comprehensive testing. Testing has shown to be very helpful in identifying COVID-19 infected persons and assists in the quarantine and isolation of exposed individuals before they are able to spread the virus to others. The test to stay policy is one option of multiple available quarantine options for the OSD staff and students and the best quarantine option for each close contact should be determined.

### **Eligibility includes, but is not limited to:**

- Students must remain asymptomatic without the assistance of medication.
- Negative PCR-molecular test on or after day 5 of the last known exposure.
- Ability to wear a surgical or KN95 mask correctly for prolonged periods
- Ability to complete rapid antigen testing

Further communication regarding “Test to Stay” will occur following a negative PCR test.

**Please note:** Students part of a **classroom closure** are **not** eligible for test to stay. Close contacts following a test to stay protocol must still quarantine at home away from others except for attending school (e.g., the person may not participate in extra-curricular or after school activities and should not attend social gatherings, etc.). Continue monitoring for symptoms until day 14.

**Consideration to county COVID-19 community transmission and activities will also be monitored and the program can be put on hold if the community transmission appears to be too high, causing undue risk to the students and classroom.**

## **When should my student be tested?**

Asymptomatic students should be tested 5-7 days after a known exposure. If your student or members in your household are exhibiting symptoms, testing should occur as soon as possible.

## **Is testing available near us?**

Ocosta School District is participating in a program called, *Learn to Return* (<https://learntoreturn.org/>), in which students and staff have the opportunity to test onsite for COVID-19. Testing is offered at the District Office for students, staff, and their household members. If you are in need of a test, please contact **Kimberly Stoll-French** at **360-268-9125 ext 1003**. Please note, students **cannot** be tested without parent permission.

## **How is a Classroom/Bus shut-down determined?**

Per the DOH K-12 Schools 21-22 requirements, a class shutdown is imminent if:

- There are two or more COVID-19 cases among students or staff.
- The cases have a symptom onset or positive test result within a 14-day period of each other.
- The cases are epidemiologically linked.
- The cases do not share a household.
- The cases are not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during the investigation

## **How is a school shut down determined?**

Per GHC PH, a school shut down occurs when 10% or more of the classrooms are shut down.

## **Why is Ocosta School District requiring masks?**

If local education agencies willfully do not comply with health and safety requirements, OSPI will follow the process and timeline described in [WAC 392-117-070 through WAC 392-117-085](#) to provide notice and time to come into compliance, and eventually withhold funds if noncompliance continues.

## **How far are students socially distancing in the classroom? At meals?**

Students are distanced at 3 feet in the classrooms. If space allows, students are separated at a longer distance. While eating meals students are distanced six feet apart.

### **To find more information or guidance please visit:**

<https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/press-releases/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-resources>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/820-105-K12Schools2021-2022.pdf>