



COVID-19 Updated Isolation and Quarantine Procedures

Following the recent updates from [S.C. DHEC on January 4, 2022](#), the School District of Newberry County has revised its procedures regarding isolation and quarantine due to COVID-19 infection or exposure. Changes in these procedures will take effect beginning January 10, 2022.

Individuals who test Positive for COVID-19 from a healthcare provider (at-home/over-the-counter self-test results will not be accepted; only PCR or antigen test results will be accepted) –

- All students/ staff who have tested positive will isolate for a minimum of 5 days. After the 5 days, if symptoms have improved or are asymptomatic and are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications), students/ staff may return on day 6. As required by DHEC, students and staff who **return after 5 days are required to wear a mask for days 6-10**. If a student is requested to put on their mask or to wear it properly during days 6-10, he/she will be immediately sent to the isolation room and parents will be notified to pick him/her up from school. The student will not be allowed to return until the isolation time is completed.
- If symptoms do not improve or worsen, remain in isolation at home and contact the nurse.

Individuals who are identified as a Household or Close Contact –

- All students/ staff who have been identified as a household or close contact will quarantine for 10 days from either exposure or date of last contact. Individuals may return on day 11 as long as remaining symptom-free for the duration of quarantine.
- Individuals who are maximally vaccinated (Pfizer, Moderna, or Janssen and booster if eligible) and individuals verified to have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, do not have to quarantine, as long as remaining symptom-free (*Individuals 16 years and older are eligible for a booster six months after completing their Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series, or two months after their single-dose Janssen*). However, they **must wear a mask** at school until 10 days after exposure.

Individuals are encouraged to monitor symptoms and seek medical attention if needed. If students/ staff have any of the following symptoms, with or without fever, they will be excluded from school.

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing -or-
- Loss of taste or smell -or-
- New or worsening cough -or-
- Fever (100.4 or higher is always a school exclusion)

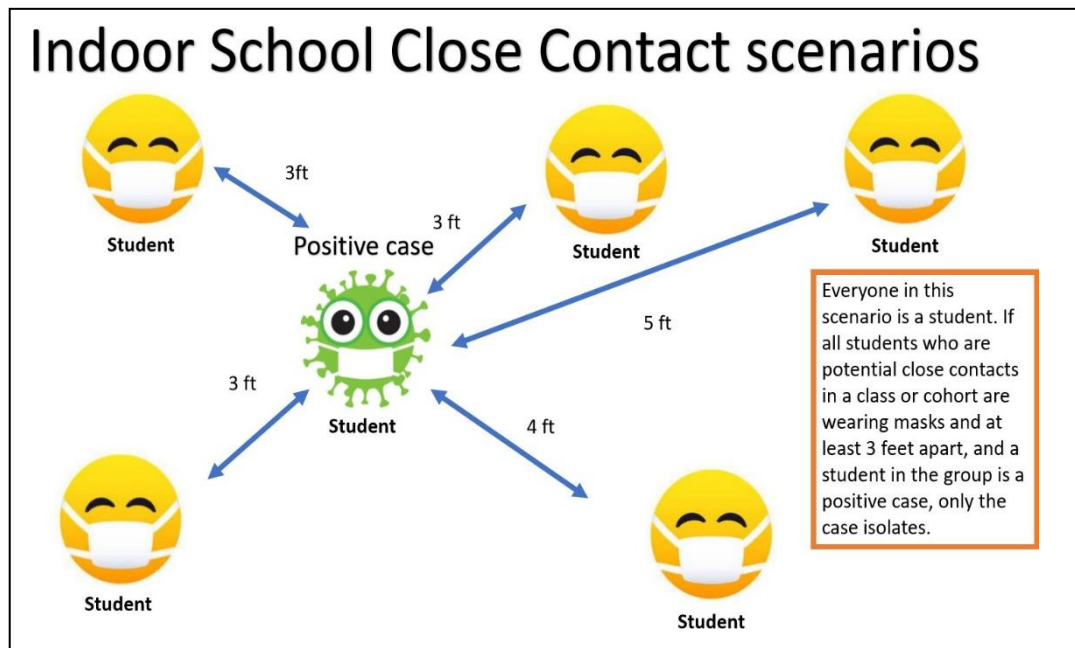
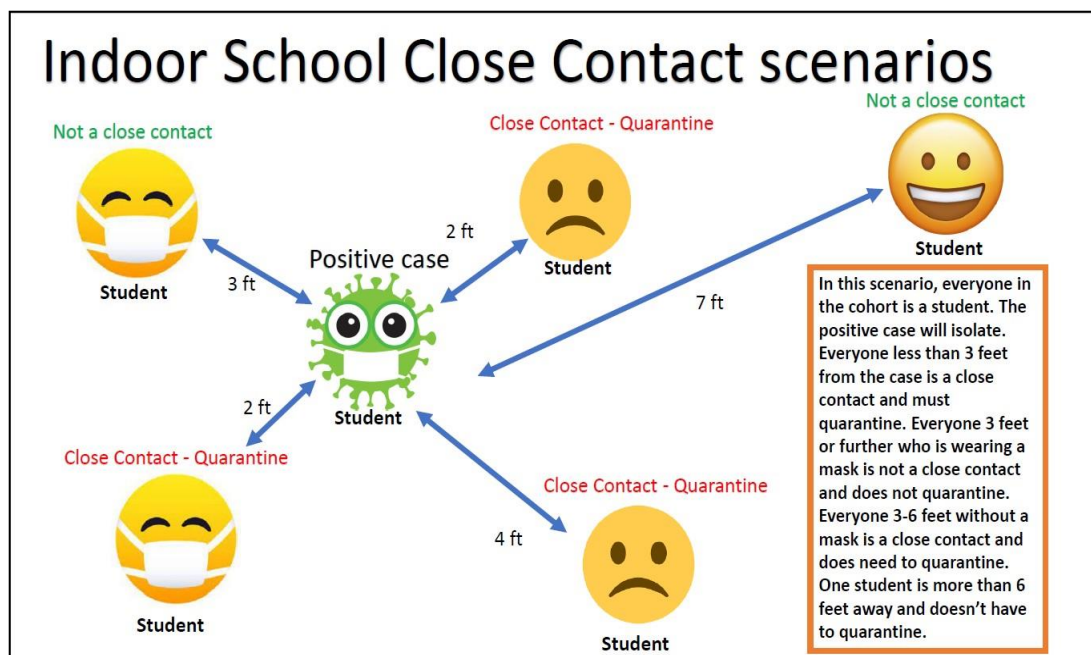
If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (asthma, etc.) exclusion may not be necessary. Please monitor for other symptoms including fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea.

If you have questions regarding the updated procedures, please email Communications@newberry.k12.sc.us.

Additional Information-

Close contact: Someone who was within 3 feet (students) or 6 feet (adults) 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) from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) of the infected person.

- The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) **if the exposed student(s) wore mask(s) during the exposure time.** This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Close physical contact can include contact with the mucous membranes of a COVID infected person through such things as, kissing, sharing eating/drinking utensils, etc., regardless of the time frame.



Indoor School Close Contact scenarios

Close Contact - Quarantine



Student

3 ft

Positive case



Student

2 ft

Close Contact - Quarantine



Student

Not a close contact



Student

3 ft

Not a close contact



Student

4 ft

Not a close contact



Student

4 ft

In this scenario, everyone in the cohort is a student. The positive case will isolate. Although the case isn't wearing a mask, students within 3-6 feet who are wearing masks don't have to quarantine. Those without masks or within 3 feet will quarantine.

Indoor School Close Contact scenarios

Close Contact - Quarantine



Student

3ft

Positive case



Teacher

3 ft

Close Contact - Quarantine



Student

Close Contact - Quarantine



Student

5 ft

Not a close contact



Student

6 ft

Not a close contact



Student

6.5 ft

In this scenario, the positive case is a teacher. Because an adult staff member is involved, students who are less than 6 feet away are close contacts and must quarantine. Those who are at least 6 feet away and masked are not close contacts and don't quarantine. Anyone more than 6 feet away will not quarantine regardless of mask use.