

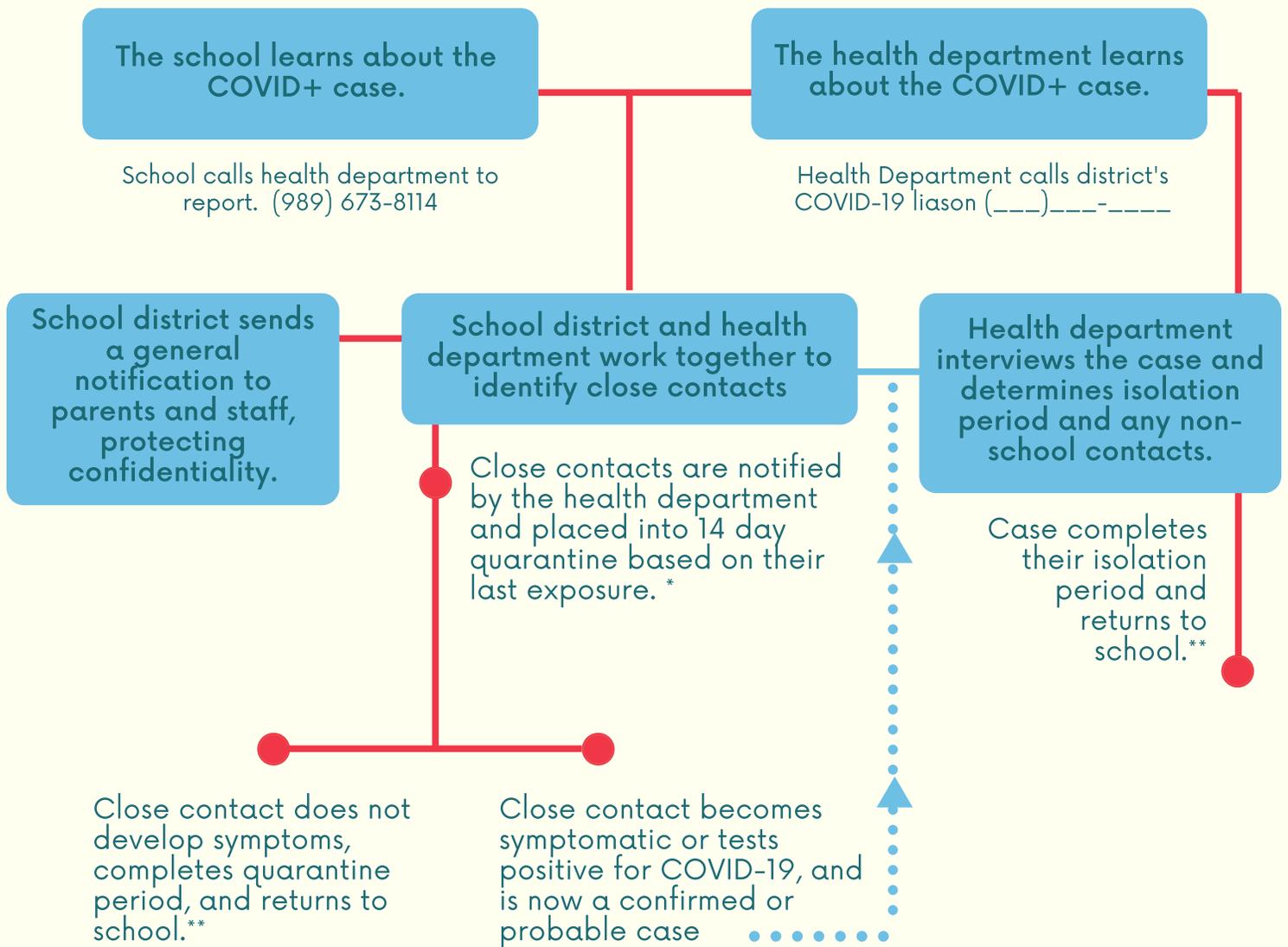


Back to School during the COVID-19 Pandemic

DISCLAIMER: This information was developed based on the latest information, but is subject to change at any time.

What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

Student/Staff is confirmed positive for COVID-19 with diagnostic test (nose/throat swab)



*If someone is placed in quarantine, they may decide to get a COVID-19 test, but a negative result will NOT shorten the length of the quarantine period.

**The health department issues an official letter releasing people from isolation or quarantine based on the relevant facts of the situation. Schools shall use the this letter to determine when to allow return to school, rather than attempting to determine this on their own.



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How to handle symptoms and household exposures?

1.

Does staff/student have symptoms of COVID-19?

Yes, symptoms:

Are they waiting for COVID-19 test results?

No testing has been conducted:

The student/staff person is excluded from school until:

- 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND
- Symptoms have improved AND
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared.

OR

Their health care provider provided them with an alternative diagnosis for their symptoms. The student/staff person may return based on the guidance for their diagnosis/predominate symptoms (see "Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools").

Yes, waiting on test results:

The student/staff person is excluded from school until results of the test are negative. If negative, the student/staff person may return based on the guidance for their predominate symptoms (see "Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools"). If the test returns positive, see previous page.

2.

Are they a close contact of a known COVID+ case?

Yes, close contact:

The student/staff person is excluded from school until 14 days past last known exposure to COVID+ person. If one or more negative tests are received, it does not change the length of the quarantine period, and does not allow them to return to school early.

3.

Are they a household member or close contact of a person with symptoms or a pending COVID-19 test?

Yes:

Household members, classmates, and other close contacts of a symptomatic but undiagnosed person, or a quarantined person may continue to attend school and should monitor for symptoms. They do not need to be excluded from school. If symptoms develop, they should call their medical provider to be tested for COVID-19. If the household member or contact tests positive, they should follow step 2, above.

If the answers to the above questions are "no", and the person is not being isolated or quarantined for COVID-19, the staff or student may attend school.

This is a summary document that may not cover all scenarios. If you are concerned about a less common COVID-19 exposure situation at school, please contact your local health department for guidance.



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● What happens when someone at school gets COVID-19?

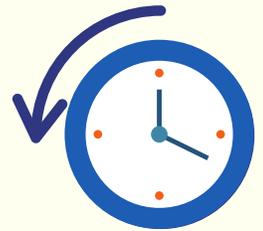
1. The school and health department learn about the case.

Only a select few at the school will know the identity of the person. Those few individuals are critical to helping the health department figure out who were close contacts to the case and determine what areas of the school need special attention for disinfection and cleaning. The person's identity is kept confidential to respect their privacy as well as following regulations of FERPA (for schools) and HIPAA (for the health department).

PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT.

2. Contact tracing begins.

A person with COVID-19 is considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before they started having symptoms. If they never have symptoms, they are considered contagious starting 2 days (48 hours) before their COVID-19 test was performed.



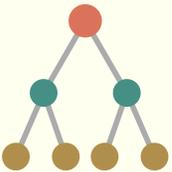
3. Quarantine close contacts.

What is a close contact? It typically is someone being within 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) of an infected person for at least 15 minutes.

Close contacts to a person with COVID-19 are at risk of getting sick. They must be identified and be in quarantine. **Quarantine separates people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.** The large majority of close contacts do not get COVID-19, but we must be cautious because it is so contagious.

...but what about contacts to close contacts?

Since close contacts are not yet known to be infected, the contacts to those contacts do not need to be in quarantine and do not need to be identified or contacted.



EXAMPLE

Bob sits next to Fred in class. Fred gets sick with COVID-19. Bob needs to be quarantined, even though he is healthy at this time. Bob plays on the football team, and Fred does not. No one on the football team has been near Fred. Therefore, the football team doesn't need to be notified about Fred being sick or worry about Bob being quarantined. Odds are, Bob will not get sick and will be back to school and football in a couple of weeks.





Back to School during the COVID-19 Pandemic

● Cohorts: Keep close contacts to a minimum

One technique to minimize the number of people that need to be excluded from school if an exposure occurs is to group children together consistently.



Meet the Tadpole Pod!

- This group of second graders has been assigned to a "pod". Their classroom has 4 pods of 5 children each.
- This group of students sits next to each other in the classroom, while still staying as far apart as practicable.
- They eat lunch together, travel the halls together, and go to recess together.

EXAMPLES



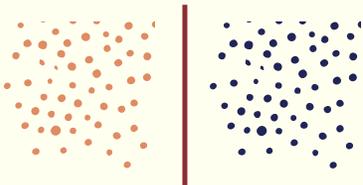
Meet the Wildcat Bubble.

- This group of ninth graders has been assigned to a "bubble". There are many bubbles of 9th graders at their school.
- This group of students sits next to each other in the classroom, while still staying as far apart as practicable. They stay in the same room for math, english, and history, and their teachers come to them. They eat lunch together.

Cohorting can happen at many levels.



Small groups of 4-8 students -- breaking up a classroom

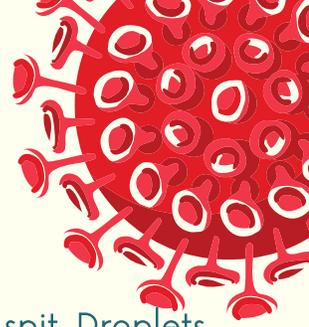


Classroom level -- keeping classrooms as contained as possible



Because cohorts keep the number of different people interacting to a minimum, it's a way to limit the number of close contacts that need to be quarantined if one person develops COVID-19.

● How does COVID-19 spread?



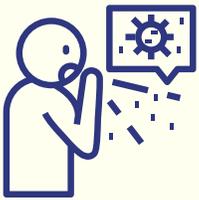
DROPLETS



Droplets are small particles that enter the air when we cough, sneeze, laugh, sing, yell, and talk. Basically, they are little flecks of spit. Droplets tend to settle out of the air after traveling several feet from the person that released them. Droplets can also spread directly by kissing or sharing personal items like drinks, vape pens, silverware, or other things that go from one person's mouth to another.

We can reduce the spread of droplets to each other by wearing face coverings, avoiding large crowded groups, and staying more than 6 feet apart from each other.

AEROSOLS



Aerosols are even smaller particles that are created when we breathe, talk, sing, sneeze, or cough. They are lighter and can stay in the air much longer than droplets but dry up more quickly.

We can reduce the spread of aerosols by increasing outdoor air ventilation or filtering air that is being recirculated.

OBJECTS



Objects can spread the COVID-19 virus when droplets or aerosols settle on them, leaving germs behind or if someone has the coronavirus on their hands from touching their nose or mouth than touches an object. COVID-19 seems to stay on object for one to three days.

We can reduce the spread of COVID-19 by objects by frequent handwashing, not touching our face, frequent cleaning and disinfection, and use of automatic or touchless controls.



How Do We Get Infected With COVID-19?

You can catch COVID-19 by more ways than being 6 feet away from an infected person for 15 minutes. Important things that have to be thought about when deciding if someone could be at risk for getting COVID-19 include the following.

INTENSITY OF EXPOSURE

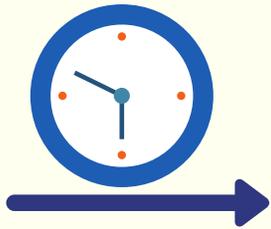
The intensity of exposure refers to how much virus you were exposed to.

- Was the sick person really contagious when you were exposed to them?
- Were they coughing and sneezing without a mask on versus having no symptoms with a mask on? Did you kiss them?
- Did you share personal items like a drink or a vape pen?
- Did you sit right next and have a face to face conversation to them or were you 6 feet away with your back to them?

The more virus you are exposed to, the more likely you are to get sick



DURATION OF EXPOSURE



The duration of exposure refers to how long were you exposed. If you were in a classroom with someone contagious for COVID-19 for 6 hours a day while they were contagious for several days, yet your seat was not within 6 feet of them, you may still have had a long enough duration of exposure to that person, particularly to aerosols and objects in that classroom.

PERSONAL HEALTH

Your personal health, like how good your immune system is, also plays a part in whether or not you will get infected, as does whether you were using all the COVID-19 risk reduction methods possible.



AGE



Age also seems to play a part in risks for COVID-19. Children may be at lower risk of catching COVID-19 and children may be a lower risk of spreading COVID-19 to others, both to other children and adults.



● How is a close contact determined in the schools?



CLASSMATES

Classmates sitting or often within 6* feet of the contagious individual, either in the classroom or on the bus, unless it only occurred one time and was less than 15 minutes. This would typically be the one to two rows of students sitting closest to the contagious individual.



LUNCH MATES

Lunch mates of student if sitting with 6* feet of contagious individual. This is a higher risk time as face coverings cannot be worn.



PLAY MATES

Playmates on the playground or in gym within 6* feet of the contagious individual unless interactions are consistently kept very brief and no common items are shared, and locker room time is not shared.



TEAMMATES

Sports teammates within 6* feet of the contagious individual unless interactions are consistently kept very brief and no common items are shared, and locker room time is not shared.



OPPOSING TEAMMATES

Opposing teammates in sporting events that shared time on the field or court with the contagious individual unless it can be confirmed that there were no potential interactions within 6* feet between the contagious individual and specific teammates and no contact with shared items.



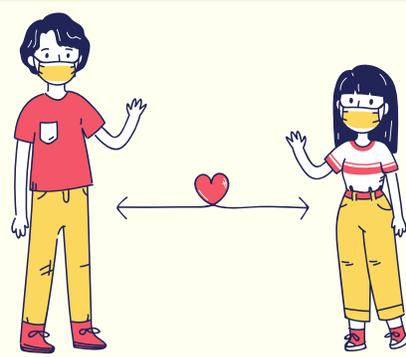
OTHER CLASSMATES

Any others that had interactions with the contagious individual lasting over 15 minutes in confined areas such as bathrooms, office room, where distancing of 6* feet is difficult.



ENTIRE CLASSROOMS

If the contagious individual is a teacher and was not keeping 6* feet away from students while teaching and not following precautions, the entire class will need to be on quarantine.



**Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for at least 15 minutes with or without a mask. Public health authorities may determine that distances beyond 6 feet can still result in high-risk exposures based on other considerations and circumstances in each particular case.



OTHERS

Any other person outside of school that had similar exposure to a contagious individual is considered a close contact.



When to stay home and when student will be sent home

Students and staff should not go to school or any school activities or sports if having symptoms of COVID-19. If they start having symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will need to be sent home. They may return based on the guidance for their diagnosis. See "[Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)"

As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there will be no way to prevent all risks of COVID-19 spread in schools. The goal is to keep the risk as low as possible and keep school and school activities as safe as possible. If students did not go to school, they would be at risk of COVID-19 illness from their interactions in the community.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever or chills*
- Cough*
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*These are the most common

TESTING

The parent or guardian of the student will be instructed to call their health care provider, or to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center. The parent or guardian can also call 2-1-1 or go to www.mi.gov/coronavirustest to find the closest location to have the student tested for COVID-19. Staff with symptoms of COVID-19 will also be advised to follow up with their healthcare provider and testing for COVID-19.

CHILD OR STAFF HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AND TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Keep out of school until it has been at least 10 days from the first day they had symptoms, they have had 24 hours with no fever and other symptoms have improved.

There is no need to get a "negative test" or a doctor's note to clear the child or staff to return to school if they meet these criteria.

CHILD OR STAFF HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AND NO TESTING FOR COVID-19 WAS DONE:

Keep out of school until it has been at least 10 days from the first day they had symptoms, they have had 24 hours with no fever and other symptoms have improved.

They may return to school if their health care provider diagnoses them with another cause for their symptoms and present a note from the provider.

CHILD OR STAFF HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AND TESTS NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19

Keep out of school until 24 hours with no fever (without taking fever medications) and other symptoms have improved.