

I. BACKGROUND:

This document identifies the processes pertaining to schools for COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Disease Investigation. COVID-19 is the disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

At this time, there is no vaccine or prophylactic medication to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Currently, the tools for controlling the spread of the virus include the following: limit gatherings of people; maintain a six (6) feet distance from others outside of your household; wear face coverings; wash hands often; and clean and disinfect surfaces regularly. In addition, public health investigations of people who are COVID-19 positive identify others who may be infected, limiting the spread of the disease through education, isolation of cases, and quarantine of contacts.

Because COVID-19 symptoms are similar to symptoms of other diseases, such as influenza (flu), a person with symptoms should be tested to determine if that person is infected with SARS-CoV-2.

SARS-CoV-2 is spread through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. In the droplets, the virus can land in the mouth or nose of people nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. For this reason, maintaining a 6 feet distance from others and wearing face coverings reduce the chance that droplets can land on other people. Face shields are not a substitute for cloth face coverings, and should only be worn if a person cannot wear a face covering. If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin.

School personnel and students with COVID-19 questions can e-mail Washington County Health Department at wchealth@bluevalley.net or call (785) 325-2600.

As more is learned about COVID-19 and schools, this procedure may be updated.

I. PROCEDURE:

A. If a school staff member or student TESTS POSITIVE

1. If school staff learn of a person at the school who has tested positive, either through verbal via phone (785-325-2600) or written communication form provided by WCHD via Fax (785-325-2688), the school nurse or principal or designee shall report to WCHD
 - a. At a minimum, the school nurse or principal or designee shall provide the contact information of the person who tested positive, their date of birth, the date of the test, and where they were tested.
 - b. WCHD online reports, phone calls and email contact methods are monitored by on-call Epidemiologists and Disease Investigators who will verify the report before contacting the school.
2. Under state regulation, WCHD receives COVID-19 test results from laboratories of all people tested in Washington County. WCHD may receive a notice of a positive test before the school does.

3. If the positive test result is verified, a person that tests positive shall be isolated at home. The person should stay home for 72 hours after symptoms have subsided OR ten (10) days from the day symptoms start – whichever period is longer.
 - a. WCHD staff interviews the person about their symptoms, exposure, close contacts, and where they have been while infectious.
 - b. If WCHD determines there was exposure to close contacts at school during the time the person was infectious, WCHD staff contact the school nurse to determine close contacts. This is confidential information and protected by patient privacy laws.
 - c. If the person was not infectious at school, WCHD shall contact the school nurse to let him/her know there was no exposure at the school.
4. If there was exposure at the school, the school or health department shall notify (call or send letters) to all close contacts of the person who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - a. Close contacts can remain at school. See II.C.
5. The school shall clean and disinfect the areas where the person worked.
6. After consult with the school nurse and administrator, WCHD or the school shall send letters to all parents and guardians or to the parents and guardians of the particular classroom or school area where the exposure took place.
7. The person who tested positive shall not be identified by the school or WCHD. This is protected health information.
8. The school nurse and administration shall discuss the particular situation with the health department to decide next steps which may include:
 - a. Closing of the school temporarily.
 - b. Suspension of school activities.

B. If a student or staff member IS SICK or HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

1. Call 9-1-1 if the person has SEVERE symptoms such as chest pain/pressure; severe shortness of breath (only able to say a word or two before taking a breath); or passing out, losing consciousness, or confusion.
2. If the person has symptoms of COVID-19:

COVID-19 symptoms include the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills or shivering, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, and fatigue or feeling more tired than normal.

- a. The person should be at home and should get tested. Testing can be performed by a healthcare provider or call WCHD provide information.
3. The school shall clean and disinfect the areas where the person worked.

4. If the COVID-19 test is negative, the person should stay home until he/she feels better AND is fever-free for 24 hours without the help of fever-reducing medication.
5. If the COVID-19 test is positive or no testing is performed:
 - a. If the person tests positive and has symptoms, the person shall stay home for 72 hours after symptoms have subsided OR 10 days from the day symptoms start whichever period is longer.
 - b. If the person tests positive and has no symptoms, the person shall stay home for 10 days after the day they were sampled.
 - c. If the person has no testing performed and has symptoms, the person shall stay home for 72 hours after symptoms have subsided OR 10 days from the day symptoms start – whichever period is longer.
 - d. The school nurse and administration shall discuss the situation with WCHD to decide next steps.

C. If a student or staff member IS a CLOSE CONTACT of a person who tested positive for COVID-19

1. Per WCHD, in a school setting, a school staff member or student who is a close contact can be at school as long as he/she DOES NOT HAVE COVID-19 symptoms AND takes the disease control steps listed below. An exception may occur if multiple students and staff with the same classroom exposure test positive. In that situation, WCHD may decide to quarantine all close contacts at home.
 - a. A close contact at school SHOULD do each of the following:
 - Stay 6 feet from others at all times.
 - Wear a face covering at all times.
 - Wash hands often.
 - Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
 - Have a symptom check and temperature check done by school administrator or designee prior to the start of the school day. Ideally, the temperature checks should happen before the person enters the school building. If an infrared device is used to check temperature, accuracy may be an issue. Anyone measuring 99.0 degrees F or higher should receive a more accurate temperature check and in-depth symptom screening.
 - Check in with medical staff at specified time periods. If the person develops symptoms during the day, they should be sent home immediately. Follow II.B.
 - Arrive and leave at different times than the rest of the students. Do not commute to school with anyone that is not also a close contact.
 - Be physically separated from the general school population. All activities, including mealtimes and classes like art and music, should take place within the classroom.
 - Have their own designated bathroom with other close contacts. If feasible, clean and disinfect common bathrooms after use.
 - Remain home while not in class at school.

- i. The close contact MUST refrain from attending school functions and activities and remain home when not in school for 14 days AFTER the last exposure to a person who tested positive.
 - b. A close contact should not attend gatherings or go to any school function or activity outside of school that involves interaction with people who are not close contacts. This includes before and after school care.
 - c. If a close contact is unable to perform all the disease control steps in II.C.1.a., he/she SHALL NOT be at school AND MUST REMAIN IN HOME QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS from last exposure to a person who tested positive.
 - d. If after discussion between the school nurse, administration and WCHD, an entire classroom is considered close contacts, the classroom may be cohorted together.
 - All students in the classroom will remain together and follow the disease control steps in II.C.1.a.
 2. If a close contact develops symptoms, he/she can call a healthcare provider for testing, or call WCHD for information of where to be tested.
 - a. The close contact with symptoms does not go to school and must remain at home until test results are available. The close contact may contact WCHD at 785-325-2600 if he/she has questions.
 3. If a close contact tests negative during the period of 14 days since last exposure to a person who tested positive, the close contact must still perform all the disease control steps in II.C.1.a.
 - D. If a student or staff member REPORTS BEING TESTED for COVID-19 BUT IS NOT a CLOSE CONTACT AND has NO SYMPTOMS
 1. With no symptoms, he/she can be at school until test results come back. He/she should wear a face covering, practice social distancing, wash hands often, and monitor for symptoms.
 2. If test results are negative, the healthcare provider shall notify the person.
 3. If test results are positive, WCHD notifies the person by phone and begins a disease investigation.
 - a. The person should stay home for 72 hours after symptoms have subsided or 10 days from the day symptoms start – whichever period is longer.
 - b. The school nurse and administration shall discuss the situation with the health department to decide next steps.
 - c. The person can request that WCHD provide a return-to-school letter by calling WCHD at 785-325-2600.

E. If the staff or student HAS BEEN ON A CRUISE OR TRAVELED INTERNATIONALLY OR TO CERTAIN U.S. STATES, as determined by KDHE in the Travel Information provided on the KDHE COVID-19 Response website (<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>), the staff or student MUST BE IN QUARANTINE FOR 14 CONTINUOUS DAYS.

1. Quarantine: Home quarantine means staying home and not attending school or public activities (large gatherings, athletic events, visiting the mall, etc.) per guidance from KDHE.

F. Students or staff WHO ARE NOT CLOSE CONTACTS to a person who tested positive ARE NOT IN QUARANTINE and DO NOT have to remain at home when not at school. Students or staff WHO ARE CLOSE CONTACTS of a person who is being tested ARE NOT IN QUARANTINE and DO NOT have to remain at home when not in school.

1. For example, Bob has no symptoms and has been contacted by WCHD to stay home in quarantine.

2. He is in quarantine because his wife Susie has symptoms and has tested positive for COVID-19. She stays home in a room separate from Bob's.

3. Bob's close contacts are not in quarantine unless he develops symptoms AND tests positive for COVID-19.

G. Required Cleaning / Disinfection / Sanitation

1. Disinfect high-touch surfaces in the classroom with products meeting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2. If materials are used by multiple people – disinfect between shared use.

3. Conduct targeted and more frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces of shared spaces (e.g., tables and chairs, railings, door handles).

II. DEFINITIONS:

Close Contact: A person who has been within six (6) feet for ten (10) minutes or longer to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while he/she was infectious.

Isolation: A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick or test positive for a disease from healthy people. This helps limit the spread of disease and can take place in the home or hospital.

Quarantine: A prevention strategy used to separate people with no symptoms who have been exposed to a disease from those who have not been exposed. People in quarantine are monitored for a time to see if symptoms develop. This helps prevent the spread of disease and usually takes place in the home.

Recovery: Fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine AND other symptoms have significantly improved