

School Close Contact Letter

DATE

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 at [SCHOOL / CLASS / ACTIVITY]. The South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) is investigating the COVID-19 case and will notify you if your child is identified as a close contact. The COVID-19 virus is spread from person-to-person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Spread is more likely to occur when people are near each other (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes). Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

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

Recommendations:

1. **Answer the call** from the SD-DOH as your child may be identified as a close contact to the COVID-19 case.
2. **Be watchful for symptoms** suggestive of COVID-19 illness that may appear in your child during the next 14 days.
3. **You do not need to keep your child at home** unless notified by the SD-DOH that your child should stay at home or your child develops symptoms of COVID-19.
4. **Take precautions to avoid illness**, including:
 - a. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
 - b. Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
 - c. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - d. Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
 - e. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
 - f. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
 - g. Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults or people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, or kidney disease, should take actions to reduce your risk of exposure (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>)

If you bring your child to a healthcare provider for COVID-19 evaluation, please bring this letter with you. For more information on COVID-19, South Dakota's Information Line can be reach at (800) 997-2880 or visit <https://covid.sd.gov/>.

Sincerely,

Joel Jorgenson