

Schools with a Staff/Student with COVID-19: What to Expect/Who Can Attend?

What will happen when a student/staff tests positive for Covid-19?

- The MCCHD is notified of all positive Covid-19 test results for residents living in Missoula County. MCCHD staff will then contact the positive individual/family and start an investigation.
- The positive individual will be asked to Isolate at home and not be allowed to come to school or activities until the end of their Isolation period(to be determined by public health).

Does the School need to Close?

- Not necessarily. If the school is able to remove everyone from the areas that need to be cleaned, the school may clean those impacted areas without closing.
- Some students and staff with potential exposure may be asked to temporarily not attend while the school works with MCCHD to determine who had close contact with the person with a positive Covid-19 test.

Who will be notified that they were exposed?

- All Close Contacts-People who were within 6 feet of the person who tested positive for 15 minutes or more. MCCHD will work with the school to notify these individuals/their families. People who do not receive a phone call from MCCHD have not been identified as a close contact.
- Above information is gathered by MCCHD staff during their investigation. MCCHD will work with school staff to get information needed-names and phones numbers of close contacts.

Who cannot come to the school after someone tests positive for Covid-19?

- Students and staff who had close contact with the person who tested positive will need to stay home(quarantine) until 14 days after their last contact with the person who tested positive. This may be a different time for people depending on when they attended or last worked with the positive person.
- A close contact cannot come back early if they have a negative test during the 14 days-they could still be incubating the virus.

When can someone who had a positive test return?

- People with a positive test can return when they have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication, and it has been at least 10 days since their symptoms started. This may be shorter than the time a close contact needs to stay at home.
- People with a positive test do not need a negative test to return.

Can siblings/parents of someone who tested positive come to school?

- No, siblings and parents would have close contact if living in the same home and must stay home until they meet MCCHD criteria for returning(the exact timeline will vary by individual).

Can siblings/parents of a close contact come to school?

- Yes, they were not exposed to someone with Covid-19 so they can still come.