



Choctaw County School District

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Choctaw County School District COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 is a rapidly changing situation. Recently, we have seen an increase in community spread and in counties that surround us. Due to this, we felt it was necessary to make sure all parents have a good understanding of what our COVID-19 sick policy is and what we are doing to keep our school district safe. We hope you will find this question/answer format style helpful in answering any questions you may have. Please understand that these plans are subject to change if new recommendations are received from the CDC and/or Mississippi State Department of Health.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

- * Temperature of 100.0 F or greater
- * Sore throat
- * Cough (for asthmatic student's, this would mean an uncontrolled or worsening cough, increased sputum production, change in sputum color or consistency)
- * Wheezing
- * Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- * Headache
- * Loss of taste or smell
- * Congestion and /or runny nose

As you can see, many symptoms of COVID-19 can mimic other illnesses. We cannot diagnose COVID-19 simply based on symptoms, but we must err on the side of caution and send children home when they have any of these complaints.

1.) Who is considered a "close contact"?

- Someone living in the same household with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- Someone who has been in direct contact with secretions of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- A person who has been within 6 feet of an infected individual for a TOTAL of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. *(ex. A student is within 6 feet of person for 5 minutes in the restroom, then later in the day they were within 6 feet of that person for 5 minutes in the gym, and then that afternoon they were within 6 feet of that Person for 5 minutes in the bus line. These short increments of time throughout the day add up to a total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period and that student will be considered a close contact)*

2.) My child had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19, now what?

- If your child is exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 **while not at school**, notify the principal or the school nurse immediately.
- Your child will be required to quarantine at home. You should notify their doctor and monitor them daily for symptoms of COVID-19.
- An administrator from your child's school will contact you about how your child will receive education during the quarantine period.

****Date of last close contact with person who has COVID-19 + 14 days= end of quarantine****

**You should consider any contact starting 48 hours prior to the date that the COVID-19 positive persons symptoms started. If the COVID-19 positive person does not have symptoms, then consider any contact starting 48 hrs. prior to the persons positive COVID-19 test date.

3.) What if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

- Notify the principal or the school nurse immediately.
- All members of the household must quarantine for 14 days.
- Contact tracing will be performed immediately. After contact tracing is completed, anyone who is considered to have had close contact exposure to the person who tested positive will be instructed to quarantine at home. Day one for the person instructed to quarantine will start the day after their last exposure to the COVID-19 positive case.
- An administrator from your child's school will contact you about how your child will receive education during the quarantine period.

4.) What should I do if someone in my house was tested for COVID-19 but we haven't received the results yet?

- Notify the principal or the school nurse immediately.
- All student's in the household will be required to quarantine at home and will not be allowed to return to school until the test results are known.
- If the household member is negative for COVID-19, a copy of the negative result or a doctor's letter is required for your child/children to return to school.
- If the household member test positive for COVID-19, your child/children will be required to quarantine at home. An administrator from your child's school will contact you about how your child will receive education during the quarantine period.

Please remember that although all schools within the CCSD work together, they also operate independently from one another. Any decision made regarding a particular school will not necessarily impact other schools. We are so blessed to have wonderful parents and teachers in our school district. If you have any questions, please reach out to us. We are all in this together!