

Frequently Asked Questions: COVID Close Contacts

What is the difference between COVID probable and COVID positive infection?

A COVID positive case is when a laboratory has collected evidence of COVID-19 from a nasal swab or less commonly a mouth swab.

A probable infection occurs when a person has had KNOWN close contact to a COVID positive individual (confirmed by a lab test) and starts to show symptoms within 14 days of contact. This can be determined only by Kristen Donnelly, Carrie Piccinini, and Stacy Chiles within General McLane School District.

A positive AND a probable are isolated the same way, with the same 10 day isolation from the start of symptoms. The only difference is no laboratory evidence to confirm positive.

How long should a close contact quarantine?

A close contact without symptoms will remain out of school for 10 days from the date of last exposure. Day 1 is the day following the exposure. A close contact **cannot** return to bussing or sports for 14 full days because we are not able to keep 6ft of distance on the bus or within sports. The student will need his or her own transportation from day 11 through day 14 and must stop in the nurse's office each day for screening through day 14. Families are welcome to stay out the full 14 days if easier and the absence will still be excused.

Does the whole family need to quarantine?

The only person to quarantine is the close contact. The rest of the family can follow their normal routine. This changes as soon as close contact starts having symptoms. If symptoms begin, the entire family must quarantine and call the school nurse or Kristen Donnelly for further instructions.

Should a close contact be tested?

A close contact should not test until at least day 5 following exposure for a more accurate test, especially if no symptoms are present. Testing should be done if symptoms start to get confirmation of COVID infection. Contact Kristen Donnelly if more information is needed on testing.

What if a close contact was wearing a mask at time of exposure to positive case?

A close contact is defined as within 6 feet for at least 15 min of a COVID positive or probable infection. Masking does not define whether or not someone is a close contact. Masking greatly reduces the chances of transmission actually occurring but masks are not 100% protective. So, even masked students/staff must follow quarantine guidelines.

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Can a staff member/student come out of quarantine if testing is negative?

No, the quarantine remains at least 10 days even with negative testing. Tests can be wrong if taken too soon or when no symptoms are present