

Protocol for Schools Assisting Public Health with Close Contact Identification for COVID-19 Cases

Student or staff with **POSITIVE TEST**¹ for novel coronavirus or designated as a "Probable Case" by Public Health

Student/staff* AND household contacts** immediately excluded from school for the duration of their assigned isolation or quarantine period as determined by public health

Work quickly to identify close contacts:
 Students/staff with close contact with the positive individual:
 Exposure at any time from 48 hours before through 10 days after symptoms developed **AND**
 Within 6 feet **AND**
 Contact ≥15 minutes

Districts may assist by **immediately** notifying their local health department and providing a list of identified close contacts

CONSIDER

Classroom contacts seated within 6 feet in the front, side, and back of student

Lunch contacts within 6 feet for ≥15 minutes

Free period contacts within 6 feet for ≥15 minutes

Transportation contacts within 6 feet for ≥15 minutes

Sports team or extracurricular contacts within 6 feet for ≥15 minutes

Schools **MAY** exclude students/staff at their discretion
ONLY the Health Department will determine which students/staff should be quarantined or isolated**

Districts may consider sending parent letters and handouts available on the TDH Education Resource Page <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/educational-resources.html>

* Student/staff with a positive test¹ will be instructed by public health to isolate at home and may return to school after a minimum 10-day isolation² from the onset of symptoms (or date of positive test, if asymptomatic) AND resolution of fever for ≥24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) AND improving symptoms

** Individuals who are determined to be close contacts will be instructed by public health to quarantine at home and may return to school after at least 14 days from the last known exposure to the infectious contact. (Quarantine of household contacts of infectious individuals may extend beyond this 14-day period). See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

¹"Test" refers to SARS-CoV-2 PCR or rapid antigen test (NOT antibody)
²Individuals with severe illness or who are immunocompromised may require isolation of up to 20 days. Consult CDC guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>