

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

Student or staff with **POSITIVE TEST**<sup>1</sup> 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 48hr before through 10 days after symptoms developed AND Within 6 feet AND Cumulative total contact  $\geq 15$  min

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 a cumulative total of  $\geq 15$  minutes over a 24hr period

Free period contacts within 6 feet for a cumulative total of  $\geq 15$  minutes over a 24hr period

Transportation contacts within 6 feet for a cumulative total of  $\geq 15$  minutes over a 24hr period

Sports team or extracurricular contacts within 6 feet for a cumulative total of  $\geq 15$  minutes over a 24hr period

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 [www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/educational-resources.html](http://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/educational-resources.html)

Student/staff with a positive test<sup>1</sup> will be instructed by public health to isolate at home and may return to school after a minimum 10-day isolation<sup>2</sup> from the onset of symptoms (or date of positive test, if asymptomatic) AND resolution of fever for  $\geq 24$  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. TDH and CDC recommend a 14-day quarantine. Acceptable alternatives to a 14-day quarantine include:

- Return to school after Day 10 from last contact with case without testing if without symptoms
- Return to school after Day 7 from last contact with case if without symptoms and with negative test result<sup>1</sup> after Day 5

(Quarantine of household contacts of infectious individuals may extend beyond this 14-day period)

See [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)

<sup>1</sup>"Test" refers to SARS-CoV-2 PCR or rapid antigen test (NOT antibody)

<sup>2</sup>Individuals 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>

Adapted from Washington University 8/18/2020