



COVID-19 Guidance



Student Services

COVID-19 Guidance

- Setting the quarantine timelines
 - Positive cases - 10 days from onset of symptoms OR testing date if asymptomatic
 - Close contacts - 14 days from the last day of exposure (*this can be tricky*)
 - What about close contacts who live in the same home as the positive case?
If unable to be isolated, the 14 days cannot begin until the 10 day quarantine has ended.
- Coding in IC
 - COVA - only for students who have tested positive (considered excused absence)
 - COV - only for students we have requested to quarantine (close contacts)
 - Everything else may be excused by parent note or doctor note
- DPH forms
 - Digital format now, found in Student Services icon in portal. Only needed when there is a positive case and/or close contacts in the school. Not needed for DL students or community exposures where the student/staff were not at school (no school related exposures).
 - Weekly DPH data form for reporting cases and clusters (found [here](#))

Questions

A student gets sent home because of a known exposure at school and is told to quarantine for 14 days. While out, the student gets tested, and the results are negative. Why can't the student return to school?

You cannot test out of a mandated quarantine, which would include both a previous positive test and a known exposure quarantine. The only ones who can “test out” are those who the parents choose to have tested, but are not known exposures.

Is there a limit on how many times someone can be quarantined?

No. The only exception to known exposure quarantines is after someone tests positive. Those individuals are exempt from known exposure quarantines for the next 3 months.

Questions

Teacher/staff - asthma bothering him last night, stomach issues last night, took tylenol sinus this am. When it wore off, his throat hurt. No fever. No known exposure. Should he get tested? And, if covid tested, does he have to wait for results before returning?

I would not advise the staff member to be tested based on that scenario. The only time I would consider it is if there is a known exposure in close contact. However, you cannot test out of a mandated quarantine, which would include both a recent previous positive test and a known exposure quarantine. The only ones who can “test out” are those who the parents choose to have tested, but are not known exposures. Therefore, the best option is to go home if you have symptoms, treat the symptoms, and return when better. If you are a known exposure, the best option is to stay out for the required quarantine time period. Getting tested is really irrelevant unless you become sick.

Questions

I would just like to have clarification on how we come up with dates. I do not feel comfortable giving return dates unless I have run it past Student Services. Also, with siblings at other schools, I just pass that information to that school's nurse and then she gives a return date? Do the siblings have the same quarantine time as other students would which would come from the onset of symptoms date?

You can always run it by Student Services if there is uncertainty of quarantine return dates. Yes, inform the other schools regarding siblings and they will give return dates. The return dates may be different, depending on who the positive person is and the dates of exposure. It is possible for siblings to NOT have the same return date as other students who are close contacts. Siblings who have regular, ongoing close contact will not be able to begin their 14 day quarantine until the positive person has finished their 10 day quarantine.

Questions

Who should screen/handle calls? I.E. - A parent calls worried because they have a new baby at home, the child has fever, cough, and sneezing and doesn't know if the child should be tested. Does this need to be screened as a COVID call or a sick call and who makes the call? I am wanting to avoid having the school call twice and maybe giving different information, thus confusing the parent even more.

This would be an administrator decision at each school as to who is taking calls. In general, I would try to avoid giving advice to parents regarding getting COVID tested.

Questions

Who handles getting the information needed for the county if a student has tested positive?

Those are duties as assigned by the school administrator. This would include who calls the parent to verify information (date onset of symptoms, date of test, etc), who works to identify close contacts at the school, who calls those parents, who completes the DPH forms, etc. The Principals all have the COVID Action Plan to guide the process, but duty assignments are not specified. The information is reported to the county by using the DPH forms. Some schools have the nurses handling the completion of the DPH forms. Some schools have an administrator doing it. Regardless of who fills them out, the current process is for the DPH form to be completed using the online form found in the Student Services icon in the portal.

Questions

Is there a time that we consider closing based on a number/percentage of students and staff out due to illness?

The current plan is we will stay open as long as we are able to do so. There is no number/percentage per se. The critical factor in this will most likely be if/when we no longer have the staff to do what is needed. We will be more willing to close entire classrooms for the younger students (PK-2nd) as it will be more difficult to determine who was in close contact. The DPH does not have an established threshold on this, but is leaving it to the discretion of local school systems to determine what is best.

Questions

I would like to know from other nurses, Tammy, or whomever at what point we are opening the isolation/quarantine room, what symptoms, etc...

There are so many factors to consider and we have lots going around w/ allergies, colds, strep. I don't want to gown up and close the well clinic and open the isolation room for mild symptoms that I keep seeing. I would like a definitive (black and white) answer re. at what point we isolate/quarantine.

If we are notified that a student currently at school has tested positive, that would be a need to open the isolation room. Otherwise, it is really a case by case. I don't see the need to open the isolation room for known exposures. I will lean on Nurse Tammy to offer any further clinical guidance on this.

Questions

For any student who has to be quarantined, it would be great to have a FAQ handout for parents that included the following:

Do I have to take my child to be tested? **No, parents are not required to have their children tested.**

Does my younger or older child also have to be quarantined? **Siblings are not required to be quarantined. Only the persons who were in close contact.**

If I choose to keep my younger or older child out of school, are their absences excused?
The schools may excuse absences with a parent note if the parents choose to keep the siblings home while one is quarantined.

Questions

What is considered Day 1 of a quarantine? If there is a positive person, is Day 1 the day of the test or the first day of symptoms? If determined to be a close contact of a positive student at school, is Day 1 the last date the other students were around the positive kid? If a student has to quarantine because of a positive case in their household (NOT because of close contact at school), is Day 1 the day of the positive test or the day of the family member's first symptoms?

Day 1 depends on various things to consider. For the positive person, Day 1 is the day of the onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, the day the test was taken. For close contacts, Day 1 is the last day of exposure to the positive person. For close contacts who live in the same home as the positive person, the close contact quarantine (14 days) is supposed to be tagged onto the end of the 10 day quarantine of the positive person, which would be considered the last day of exposure.

Quarantine for
person who tested
positive

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Day 1 Symptoms begin	11	12 Gets tested	13	14 Positive test results rec'd	15 →
16	17	18	19 → Day 10	20 Return to school	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Quarantine for
persons in close
contact

Close Contact - Example 1

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Day 1 Symptoms begin	11 Sick person stays home	12 Gets tested	13	14 Positive test results rec'd	15 →
16 →	17	18	19	20	21 →	22 →
23 Day 14	24 Return to school	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Quarantine for persons in close contact

Close Contact - Example 2

August 2020

- begin from last day of exposure
 - count 2 days before symptoms began or positive test if asymptomatic

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Close contact at school +student at school	6 <u>Day 1</u> Close contact at school +student at school	7 Close contact absent Symptoms begin, +student at school	8
9	10 Sick person stays home	11	12 Gets tested	13	14 Positive test results rec'd	15
16	17	18	19 Day 14	20 Return to school	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Questions

Who determines the quarantine dates? The administrators have the authority to make that decision or to delegate it at their discretion. If there is any question about it, Nurse Tammy (Lead Nurse), Callen Moore (Director of Public Relations), or I can guide the decision. Either way, Student Services must be notified for student quarantines, and Dr. Young in HR for staff quarantines.

What follow up calls need to be made, if any? There are no requirements for this, but it would be good practice to at least follow up with the positive cases before they return to school. If you have time to follow up on close contacts to verify they are symptom free before returning, that would be ideal, but that may not be feasible.

Questions

What are the expectations of school nurses regarding COVID-19? What should procedure be for notifying the school nurse of a positive case in the school?

The administrators have the authority to delegate tasks and create their own school plan. They have been asked to make sure to inform the school nurses if/when there is a positive case. I would also ask to make sure if there are siblings at other schools that the nurses at those schools are notified.

Questions

In the county weekly report, what numbers will be reported? Just the new numbers? Cumulative?

Weekly report will only be new numbers directly connected to positive cases in the schools. Weekly updates are provided on the [WCSD website](#).

Questions

I have had a few parents ask about getting an antibody test done to see if their student has antibodies. I am not sure how that would work. I know the antibodies are supposedly only lasting three months. How is that three month period counted? If someone just goes and gets an antibody test done how is the three months figured up if they have not had an exposure or been ill ?

Quarantine exemption is only applicable to persons who have had a documented diagnostic test (PCR or antigen) within the past 3 months. Antibody testing is not applicable.

Questions

Any tips on dealing with issues when students report being upset/bothered by how a teacher reacts or treats them? I have multiple cases a week where a student states the teacher responded negatively when they ask to go to the clinic? Such as asking, "why, are you sick?", leaning way back and away from student to toss them the clinic pass, forcing students to come to the clinic, when the student doesn't feel bad at all - coming to the clinic with confused looks on their faces and when I ask them what is bothering them, they say "I feel fine. My teacher told me I had to come to the clinic", telling students "anyone that sneezes 3 times in a row is clearly sick", comments telling them they shouldn't be coming to school.

These are all issues to be addressed by the school administrators.

Questions

If a student has been around someone who is positive at home but the student does not have any symptoms, may the student continue to come to school?

No. Direct exposure in close contact is the determining factor, not symptoms.

If my student has a sibling at another school in the district who has been quarantined, will my student have to be quarantined as well?

No. The only ones who would need to be quarantined would be those who have had direct exposure to a positive case. Siblings of someone who has been in direct contact would not need to be quarantined unless they themselves had a known exposure.

Please email me any other questions, I can continue to add to this to share with everyone.
Thank you!

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