



MSDH Public Health Guidance for K-12 During COVID-19

What's New:

Guidance for previously vaccinated individuals:

If you have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19, you are not required to quarantine after exposure if you meet the following criteria*:

- You are fully vaccinated, and it has been 2 or more weeks since your final dose in the vaccine series.
- You have been asymptomatic since your COVID-19 exposure.

****If you do not meet all of these criteria, you should follow the quarantine guidance listed below.***

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continues to strongly encourage a 14-day quarantine period for close contacts to individuals who have COVID-19, especially household contacts. However, MSDH does provide the following acceptable alternative quarantine options:

10 Day Option:

Close contacts can end quarantine after 10 days if they have monitored for symptoms daily and had no symptoms during the entire 10-day period.

7 Day Plus Test Option:

If testing is available, close contacts who have remained asymptomatic for 7 days and who have a negative test (any form of molecular based testing for the detection of COVID-19 RNA) collected on day 5, 6, or 7 can discontinue quarantine after 7 days. Quarantine must be at least 7 days after exposure regardless of a negative test.

Persons can discontinue quarantine at these time points only if the following criteria are also met:

- No symptoms of COVID-19 at any point during the quarantine period; **and,**
- Continue to monitor for symptoms for a full 14 days; **and,**
- Continue to wear masks and practice social distancing at all times for a full 14 days.
- If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and seek testing for COVID-10,
- **Remember, a negative test collected prior to day 5 cannot be used to shorten the quarantine period.**

Essential employees who continue to work should self- quarantine at home at all other times during their quarantine period based on the above options.