

Response to a Case of COVID-19 in a School

In response to a COVID positive case or a student or staff member with COVID-19-like illness, Caroline County Public Schools will follow the guidance provided by the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Department of Education, and the Caroline County Department of Health.

Isolation, Exclusion, Quarantine, and Return to School

- **Isolation**

- Students or staff identified with COVID-19-like illness during the school day will be isolated in a designated area.
- A surgical mask will be placed on the student or staff member instead of a cloth face covering as appropriate.
- The school health staff member will wear the appropriate PPE when caring for the ill student or staff member.
- The parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified to pick the student up as soon as possible.
- Ill students will be encouraged to follow up with their health care provider for evaluation.
- The school nurse will follow up with the parent or guardian of the ill student 48 hours after being sent home to check for updates if none have been received.
- Symptomatic or positive students and staff will be able to return to school as outlined in the MDH/MSDE guidance “**Decision Aid Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps**”.

- **Contact Tracing**

- When the school nurse becomes aware of a student who is positive for COVID-19, the school administrator will be notified.
- The school administrator or designee will lead the internal process of identifying close contacts including the two days prior to symptom onset with the positive individual. As of 1/20/22, CCPS limits contact tracing notifications to siblings and household members of positive cases and students participating in school athletics.

- **Quarantine of Close Contacts**

- Parents/guardians will be notified if their child is a contact of a positive individual.

- Instructions will be given with information on quarantining, testing, symptoms to watch for, and when their child can return to school.
- Unvaccinated close contacts can return to the classroom 7-10 days after last exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic and universal masking is implemented. A quarantine timeline for athletics will be dependent on the level of close contact of the sport.

Communication

- Parents/guardians must notify the school nurse or principal as soon as they are aware that their child has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, is symptomatic, or their child has been exposed to a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Staff members must notify their immediate supervisor if they have tested positive, have symptoms of COVID-19-like illness, or been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19 or has COVID-19 like illness.
- The school nurse will notify the principal and Supervisor of Health Services upon notification of the positive student.
- Close contacts will be notified of the exposure via email.
- Staff members and families will be notified when there is a positive individual in the building or on school grounds via email.
- The number of positive cases will be updated weekly on the CCPS Dashboard website.