

COVID-19 School Isolation & Quarantine

Updated January 3, 2022 and subject to change at any time

Symptom Screening Recommendations

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Two of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, fatigue, myalgia, headache, sore throat, congestion or running nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea **OR**
- One of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell ([click here for full CDC list](#))

Individual should be tested for COVID-19.

- If test result is **negative** OR doctor's note with differential diagnosis, return to school after 24 hours afebrile **and** resolving respiratory symptoms
- If test result is **positive** or individual is unable/refuses to get tested, follow guidance for isolation for Covid-19

Isolation Requirements for Covid-19

Per Montgomery County Public Health Code, pertaining to the reporting, isolation, quarantine, and respective disease control measures (including contact tracing) for the control of communicable diseases.

Positive COVID-19 PCR or Antigen (Point of Care) Test

WITH SYMPTOMS

- May return to school after:
- 24 hours with no fever **AND**
 - Resolving symptoms **AND**
 - 5 days since symptoms first appeared
- Masks worn around others days 6-10

WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

- May return to school after:
- 5 days after specimen was collected
- Masks worn around others days 6-10
- If symptoms develop during the 5 days, follow return to school guidance for positive PCR or Antigen test **WITH** symptoms

Quarantine Requirements for Covid-19

Per Montgomery County Public Health Code, pertaining to the reporting, isolation, quarantine, and respective disease control measures (including contact tracing) for the control of communicable diseases.

Close Contact to Positive

- Within 6ft for 15 minutes or more
- Household contact

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed, the close contact definition *excludes students* who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:

- Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks **and**
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom or structured outdoor setting.

WITH SYMPTOMS

Individuals should be tested for COVID-19 and isolate until results are known

Positive test result

- Refer to isolation requirements

Negative test result

- Quarantine for 5 days after last exposure
- Masks worn around others days 6-10
- Follow sick policy

WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

- Quarantine for 5 days after last exposure
- Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure
- Masks worn around others days 6-10

Household contacts may require further investigation but are to follow the above guidance.

Monitor symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop follow return to school for Close Contact **with** symptoms.

COVID VACCINATION EXCEPTION

People who are **Fully Vaccinated** against COVID-19 do **NOT** need to quarantine after an exposure if they meet **ONE** of the following criteria:

- Completed primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months*
- Completed primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months*
- Completed primary series of Pfizer or Moderna OVER 6 months ago **AND** received a booster*
- Completed primary series of J&J OVER 2 months ago **AND** received a booster*

AND remain **asymptomatic** since last exposure

Fully Vaccinated should get tested 5 days after last exposure **AND wear a mask around others for 10 days.**

- **Positive** test: Refer to isolation requirements
- Symptoms develop: repeat testing, isolate while waiting for results & follow sick policy
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following last exposure

COVID-19 RECENT INFECTION EXCEPTION

People who had a positive diagnostic test for Covid-19 within the last 90 days before their last exposure do not need to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic.

- Wear a mask in around others for 14 days after exposure