Montgomery County
Office of Public Health

COVID-19 School Isolation & Quarantine

Updated December 28, 2021 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, 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** improved respiratory symptoms (refer to MCOPH Public Health Advisory released on 10/11/2021 for interpretation of Antigen Test Results in the K-12 setting).
- If test result is positive or individual is unable/refuses to get tested, may return to school after:
  - ➤ 24 hours with no fever **and**
  - ➤ Improvement in symptoms **and**
  - ➤ 5 days since symptoms first appeared (masks should be worn day 6-10)

MCOPH only recognizes negative results from Covid-19 diagnostic tests that have been performed through CLIA certified healthcare providers. Negative results from an over the counter (at home) tests will not be accepted in order to return to school.

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**
- Resolution of symptoms **AND**
- 5 days since symptoms first appeared (masks should be worn days 6-10)

WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

May return to school after:
- 5 days after specimen was collected (masks should be worn days 6-10)

If symptoms develop during the 5 days, follow return to school guidance for positive PCR or Antigen test <u>WITH</u> 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 <u>excludes students</u> 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.**

**If testing resources are sufficient, close contacts should be tested regardless of symptoms. If an unvaccinated individual is tested, regardless of the reason, they should stay home and isolate until the results are back.

WITH SYMPTOMS

Individual should be tested for COVID-19

Positive test result

May return to school after:
- 24 hours with no fever **AND**
- Resolution of symptoms **AND**
- 5 days since symptoms first appeared (masks should be worn days 6-10)

Negative test result

May return to school after:
- Quarantine is completed
  Exception
Negative antigen test with no PCR follow up
- Follow Isolation requirement above

WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

Quarantine can end 5 days after exposure. Testing is recommended on Day 5 after exposure and masks should be worn days 6-10.

- Household contacts may require further investigation to determine dates of quarantine.

The most protective quarantine is 14 days post exposure.

Recommended symptom monitoring until day 14. If symptoms develop during this time, follow return to school for Close Contact <u>with</u> symptoms.

COVID VACCINATION EXCEPTION

People who are vaccinated against COVID-19 do <u>NOT</u> need to quarantine after an exposure to another person with COVID-19 if they meet <u>ALL</u> of the following criteria:
- They are fully vaccinated (i.e. ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine AND have received a booster shot in the appropriate time frame recommended by their vaccine series) **AND**
- They have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Fully Vaccinated should get tested 5 days after a known exposure AND wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- If they test positive follow guidance for Covid-19 Positive Test and isolate
- If they develop Covid-19 symptoms, repeat testing recommended & follow sick policy.

A negative diagnostic test <u>MAY</u> rule out Covid-19
Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure regardless of negative test results

COVID-19 RECENT INFECTION EXCEPTION

People who had a positive diagnostic test for Covid-19 within the last 90 days before their exposure do not need to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic. These persons are recommended to wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days after exposure.