



FAQ ABOUT SCHOOL EXPOSURE AND WHAT TO DO

The Washington County Health Department has provided the following guidance for frequently asked questions regarding school exposure to a positive COVID-19 individual. The Health Department has added an option to the call tree. You can now call 573-438-2164 and select option 6 to speak with a COVID-19 expert for general questions.

1. How do you determine who is a close contact?

- a. Any individual who is within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of the positive individual. This can be those who sit close in classrooms, during lunch, on the bus, etc. This is determined by the school from seating charts and class schedules.

2. Will the school call me every time?

- a. Not always, but the list of close contacts does come from them – if a positive is discovered late in the evening or on the weekend the only call you may receive is from the Health Department

3. What do I need to do if told by the school my child is a close contact?

- a. The child that has close contact will need to quarantine – this means they cannot leave your property. They cannot go to daycare or school until 14 days from the last exposure. A Health Department staff member will be contacting you within 24 hours to go over specific directions. Please do not call the Health Department right away – we will call you as soon as we have your information.

4. Can my other children go to school and can I go to work?

- a. As long as the quarantined child does not have symptoms – the other family members are not quarantined and can continue routine activities. If the quarantined child does have symptoms – everyone should stay home until that child has a negative COVID test, then only the exposed child will need to stay in quarantine.

5. My quarantined child had a negative test – can I send them back to school?

- a. No. They must quarantine the full 14 days. The test is only diagnostic, it can no predict if they will develop symptoms in the future.

6. When can my child return to school?

- a. 14 days after their exposure date as long as they remained symptom free during their quarantine.

7. Does my child need a note to return to school?

- a. Yes – the Health Department will provide you with a note that has the quarantine dates on it, including the date your child may return to school. Your child **MUST** have this letter to return to school. You can email PHN@wcmohealth.org to receive this letter. It is set to autoreply with the information you need to include. You must have done an interview with the Health Department staff to be able to receive this letter, and letters are processed within 24 hours of request.

8. What if my child receives a cohort letter from the school?

- a. The cohort letter means that there was a positive in your child’s classroom, bus, lunch room, etc. If you only received the letter – your child was not a close contact to the positive. You do not need to quarantine but should continue to do the daily routine health screenings with your child. You would be personally contacted by the Health Department if your child is a close contact.

9. My child doesn’t feel good what should I do?

- a. Any time your child has symptoms you should keep them home. Do not send them to school. Get them checked out by your Primary Health Care Provider.

10. How can I get my child tested if they were exposed and have symptoms?

- a. Any Primary Health Care Provider in Washington County can do testing. Please reach out to them to schedule testing.