



NEWS RELEASE

Date - October 25, 2021

Beginning Tuesday, November 2, 2021, QACPS will be following a modified process for quarantining unvaccinated students identified as close contacts of a positive case of COVID-19. Based on updated guidance from the Queen Anne's County Health Department (QACHD), quarantining protocols will be as follows:

In settings where all students are masked, **an asymptomatic student who is identified as a close contact will no longer need to quarantine from school** as long as the following conditions are met:

1. If at any time the student develops symptoms of COVID-19, he or she should isolate and get tested right away.
2. The student cannot participate in activities within a school or public setting for 14 days where universal masking and social distancing are not in place. **This includes sports and extracurricular activities.**
3. Testing is recommended, but not required, 5-7 days following the exposure.

Parents will be notified by the school if their child is identified as a close contact while masked. Please ensure your contact information is up to date with the school. If parents choose to keep an asymptomatic child home to quarantine, they should notify the school and the absence will be documented until a specified return date.

Students currently quarantined that were considered "masked close contacts" may return to school on Tuesday. Students who are identified as close contacts while not wearing a mask (such as during meals) will follow current protocols. Parents unsure of the conditions of their child's quarantine should check with the school nurse.

Keep in mind, this quarantine process is subject to change based on our county positivity numbers. QACPS will continue to implement layered prevention strategies as outlined in the **2021-2022 Reopening Plan**. These include universal masking (except while eating), distancing to the extent possible, and contact tracing to identify close contacts.