

COVID-19 Exclusion, Isolation, and Quarantine FAQ

- 1. If a student, educator, or other school staff member is a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 or has COVID-19-like illness, what should the school do?**

The school should follow the MDH/MSDE guidance titled "[*Response to a Laboratory Confirmed Case of COVID-19 and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools*](#)" for exclusion, isolation, quarantine, communication and notification processes.

- 2. When can a student or staff person who is quarantined at home due to being a close contact of a person with laboratory confirmed or probable COVID-19 return to school?**

Close contacts of a person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 who was in the school building should be identified by the school and the local health department for the purpose of making quarantine recommendations. These close contacts should not attend school, work in or visit a school building until completing quarantine per the following MDH guidance.

A quarantine period of 14 days remains the safest option for close contacts of persons with confirmed or probable COVID-19. Based on updated guidance from the CDC, the following option to shorten quarantine may be an acceptable alternative in the school setting depending upon local circumstances:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 if NO symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring during the entirety of quarantine; AND
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through Day 14; AND
- Persons are counseled regarding the need to adhere strictly to all recommended mitigation strategies including correct and consistent mask use, social distancing, and self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID19 through Day 14; AND
- Persons are advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact their health care provider to determine if they need to be tested and how long they should be excluded from work or school.

Note: For persons that are unable to comply with correct and consistent mask use including children under 5 years of age and persons with a disability or medical condition that makes wearing a face mask unsafe, a shorter quarantine option may NOT be used and these persons must quarantine for a full 14 days. Schools and local school systems should determine the best quarantine option for their population in consultation with the local health department.

***Close contacts on athletic teams will not be able to participate in practices or events for the full 14 days as per QAC Health Department guidance and best practices ***

3. When can a student or staff person who is quarantined at home due to being a close contact of a household member with laboratory confirmed or probable COVID-19 return to school?

When a student or staff person needs to quarantine due to being the close contact of a household member with laboratory confirmed or probable COVID-19, they should follow CDC guidance to prevent the spread of infection within the household. Persons who are able to have no further close contact with their household member who is a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 may return to work or school once they complete quarantine according to the guidance in question #15.

4. If the person is not able to avoid any close contact with the household member with confirmed or probable COVID-19, the person must start their quarantine AFTER the household member is released from isolation. The person must undergo this additional time for quarantine because the person could have been infected on the final day of the household member's isolation.