



FCPS Test to Stay in School Program Guidance

Fayette County Public Schools is committed to providing in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year and has implemented layered prevention strategies recommended by health and medical experts to ensure a safe learning environment for students and a safe workplace for teachers and employees.

The Delta variant of COVID-19 spreads very easily and quickly, even with strict adherence to districtwide safety measures. Since schools reflect the communities we serve, the current rates of the virus in Fayette County have led to cases of COVID-19 in schools and resulted in quarantines.

In an effort to reduce the amount of instructional time students lose while quarantined, FCPS has developed a Test to Stay in School program in partnership with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Section 1: If You Test Positive for COVID-19

Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset or, if they are not having symptoms (asymptomatic), after receiving a positive test result. Call 859-381-3277 (FCPS) to report a positive case.

They may return to school after 10 days, with an isolation release from the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department or a physician, **IF** they have been symptom free for 24 hours without taking symptom-reducing medications.

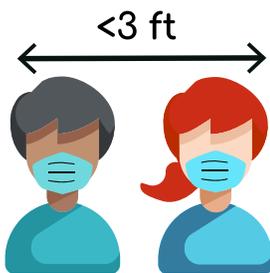


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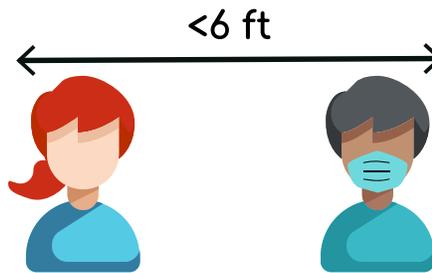
Section 2: What is close contact?

“Close contact” for **students** is defined as:



Being within 3 feet or less in the classroom if both individuals are wearing a mask.

OR



Being within six feet or less for more than 15 minutes cumulatively during the school day, if one or both individuals do not have on a mask.

Section 3: Quarantine

Students who are identified as having had “close contact” with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 while they were contagious are placed in quarantine.

Exceptions:

- ***Asymptomatic, fully-vaccinated close contacts:*** Students who are vaccinated and are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols. Although exempt from quarantine, they must monitor for symptoms for up to 14 days. If they begin having symptoms of COVID-19 at any time during the 14-day quarantine window, students should follow the requirements outlined in ***Section 5: Quarantine Protocols for Students WITH Symptoms of COVID-19.*** Whether or not they develop symptoms, it is still suggested that these individuals get tested for COVID-19 between three and five days after exposure.
- ***Asymptomatic close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:*** Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the 90 days prior to their exposure are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:



The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness.

AND



The exposed individual has recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

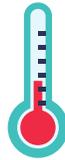
Section 4: Quarantine Protocols for Students WITHOUT Symptoms of COVID-19

Students placed on quarantine **due to in-school exposures who are not experiencing symptoms** must follow one of these three protocols, however it is up to each family to determine which protocol they want their children to use. In all three options, families must continue to monitor their child for symptoms for 14 days (the day of exposure counts as day 0). If they begin having symptoms of COVID-19 at any time during the 14-day window, students should follow the requirements outlined in **Section 5: Quarantine Protocols for Students WITH Symptoms of COVID-19**.

Protocol A: Quarantine at Home



Stay home from school for 10 calendar days from the last day of exposure. (The day of exposure counts as day 0.)



Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

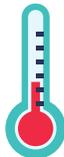


Return to school on day 11, as long as they are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Protocol B: Test to Shorten Quarantine



Stay home from school for 7 calendar days. (The day of exposure counts as day 0.)



Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.



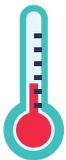
Get tested for COVID-19 on day 5 **OR** day 6 **OR** day 7.



If test is negative, return to school on day 8, as long as they are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.

Protocol C: Test to Stay in School

Note: Protocol C is only available to students quarantined due to an in-school exposure. Students who are close contacts to a case in the household or outside of school must follow Protocol A or B.



Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.



Come to school each morning as long as they are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.



Get tested for COVID-19 at school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for up to and including 7 days after exposure.* (The day of exposure counts as day 0.)



If test is **negative**, stay in school. Students should refrain from other activities, except school, until day 8.

OR



If test is **positive**, go home and follow isolation requirements for a COVID-19 case.

**Note: If the period of 7 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays when school is closed, individuals should continue to quarantine at home and be tested for COVID-19 on the next available testing day at school.*

Section 5: Quarantine Protocols for Students WITH Symptoms of COVID-19

Students placed on quarantine who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14 days following the exposure must stay home from school and follow one of these two protocols, however it is up to each family to determine which protocol they want their children to use.

Protocol D: Get Tested

Families may choose to get their student tested for COVID-19 upon developing symptoms, and:



If test results are **positive**, go home and follow isolation requirements for a COVID-19 case.

Call 859-381-3277 (FCPS) to report a positive case.

OR



If test results are **negative** for COVID-19, seek an alternative diagnosis from a primary care provider **AND** follow return-to-school instructions from that physician.

Note: If directed by a doctor to return to school prior to the end of the original quarantine period, continue with either "quarantine at home," "test to shorten," or "test to stay" protocols until complete.

Protocol E: No Test

If families choose **NOT** to have their children tested for COVID-19:



Stay home from school for 10 calendar days.

AND



Return to school after they have been symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of symptom-reducing medications.