



# COVID-19 School Isolation & Quarantine

Updated March 24, 2022 and subject to change at any time

References supporting this document are linked in document and/or provided at bottom of chart. Refer to links for further guidance.

Designated Contact Information for School Personnel  
 Phone: 610-278-6211  
 Email: [MCSchoolsCOVID19@montcopa.org](mailto:MCSchoolsCOVID19@montcopa.org)

## 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, or 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** resolving respiratory symptoms
- If test result is **positive** or individual is unable/refuses to get tested, follow guidance for isolation for Covid-19

## 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**
  - Resolving symptoms **AND**
  - 5 days since symptoms first appeared
- Masks worn around others days 6-10

#### WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

- May return to school after:
- 5 days after specimen was collected
- Masks worn around others days 6-10
- If symptoms develop during the 5 days, follow return to school guidance for positive PCR or Antigen test **WITH** 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 **excludes students** 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.

### WITH SYMPTOMS

*Individuals should be tested for COVID-19 and isolate until results are known*

#### Positive test result

- Refer to isolation requirements

#### Negative test result

- Quarantine for 5 days after last exposure
- Masks worn around others days 6-10
- Follow sick policy

### WITHOUT SYMPTOMS

- Quarantine for 5 days after last exposure
- Testing is recommended on day 5 exposure
- Masks worn around others days 6-10

Household contacts may require further investigation, but are to follow the above guidance.

*Everyone should monitor symptoms for 10 days. If symptoms develop follow return to school for Close Contact with symptoms.*

**K-12 Schools have an option of implementing Mask to Stay Guidelines which include wearing masks consistently after exposure and a testing protocol.**

#### Positive test result

- Refer to isolation requirements

### COVID VACCINATION EXCEPTION

People do **NOT** need to quarantine after an exposure if they meet **ONE** of the following criteria:

- Age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters if eligible, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people\*
- Age 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines\*

**AND** remain **asymptomatic** since last exposed

**Recommended to get a test on day 5 after last exposure**

**AND wear a mask around others for 10 days.**

- Positive** test: Refer to isolation requirements
- Symptoms develop: repeat testing, isolate while waiting for results & follow sick policy
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days following last exposure

### COVID-19 RECENT INFECTION EXCEPTION

People who had a positive diagnostic test for Covid-19 within the last 90 days before their last exposure do not need to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic.

- Wear a mask in around others for 10 days after exposure

CDC: What we know about Quarantine and Isolation  
 605 10/15/21 - UPD - Point of Care Antigen Test Use and Interpretation  
 606- 10/25/2021 - ADV- Recommendations regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

\*For the purpose of this guidance, individuals are considered Fully Vaccinated at least 14 days after completion of the primary series. individuals are considered Up to Date the same day as receipt of a booster dose.

CDC Quarantine and Isolation Calculator  
 601- 10/1/2021 - UPD ADV - Quarantine Recommendations After SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Test  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/contact-tracing.html>  
 619 1/7/2022- UPD - Isolation and Quarantine Periods for Covid-19 for the General Population