Communication Guidance For Covid-19 Positive Cases

What You Can Expect When There is a Reported COVID-19 Case in a School:

WS/FCS WILL

- ✓ Send a Connect5 call to all families in the **impacted school** when there is a positive case (staff or student)
- ✓ Update the COVID-19 Dashboard daily
- ✓ Partner with the Forsyth County Department of Public Health for contact tracing
- ✓ Provide as transparent reporting as possible while still protecting confidentiality
- ✓ Temporarily close areas where the infected person spent time for extra cleaning
- ✓ Work with public health officials to monitor symptoms of students, and staff, as well as case counts
- ✓ Send students and staff home when they are ill
- ✓ Continue to teach and learn from home when under quarantine
- ✓ Continue to provide important health and safety information to families

Health Department WILL

- ✓ Conduct contact tracing to identify potential exposure on campus based on proximity and time together
- ✓ Contact any person identified as a close contact, instruct them to self-quarantine, and provide further guidance on quarantine and testing

WS/FCS WILL NOT

- ✗ Provide personally identifiable information of an infected person
- ✗ Immediately close schools for a positive case
- ✗ Notify the entire district each time there is a case within a school

More specifics about different situations are included in the following pages.

Possible Cause
for Someone
to Quarantine

Individuals may quarantine to monitor their health to ensure they are not at risk of infecting others. This is a great way to take care of one another.

Individuals may quarantine because they are caring for someone who is vulnerable. This is a great way to take care of one another.

Individuals may quarantine because they are someone who is vulnerable. This is essential.

Individuals may quarantine because a member of their household has been identified as having been in close contact to a COVID-19 positive person. This is a great way to take care of one another.
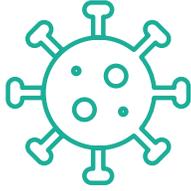
Individuals may quarantine because they are following directions from their state or local health department. This is a great way to take care of one another.

An individual's privacy is protected by law. FERPA and HIPAA prevent a district or school from sharing a person's medical information or status.

CDC When to Quarantine

NCDHHS Reference Guide

What if a **Student** Tests Positive?

Scenario

Student feels unwell in classroom

Teacher calls nurse or COVID Coordinator to the classroom

Student's temperature is taken and discusses symptoms

Student has a temperature over 100.4° and/or symptoms

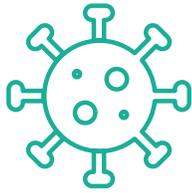Student remains in separate holding space until parent can pick up student

Parent has the option to get the student tested

Test is negative

Student can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and they have felt well for 24 hours.

Test is positive

Student should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since date of 1st positive COVID-19 test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
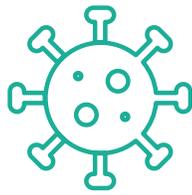
What if a **Family Member** Tests Positive?

Scenario

Student has someone at home who is positive for COVID-19

Student must follow guidance from public health which can include quarantine at home for 14 days after the last day of exposure

Parent has the option to get student tested

Should one member of the household have a positive test OR be named a close contact to a positive case, children must follow guidance of public health which can include being quarantined until 14 days from the last day of exposure. Public health may advise quarantine for 10 additional days. Families should work with school officials to determine when returning is appropriate.

What if a **Staff Member** Tests Positive?

Scenario

Staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Staff member notifies school administration who tells district administration

District notifies local county health department

The local health department within the county the staff member lives will interview positive case and begin contact tracing depending upon that jurisdiction's protocol

Health department alerts any person/family who needs to self-quarantine due to being a close contact

District ONLY informs specific individuals deemed "need to know" of the positive case for cleaning and personnel purposes. The dashboard is then updated to reflect the positive case.

Arrangements made for learning to continue for students.

For Questions Regarding Positive Cases/ School Closures

POSITIVE CASES:

The local health department will alert families if a student had prolonged contact with a positive case. Notification will be sent by the school if there is a reported positive case within the school. Any questions to the school regarding positive cases should be answered with:

We realize that students may exhibit symptoms of illness; however, this information is protected by law through FERPA and HIPAA. Should there be close contact with confirmed cases, our local health department will conduct contact tracing and advise parents/ guardians by phone call.

We can assure families that all measures are being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. We have scheduled daily cleaning protocols, require masks for students and staff, and monitor that everyone remains six feet apart at all times.

WS/FCS
Winston-Salem   Forsyth County Schools

OUR SAFE RETURN