

Return to Campus

FAQ



Response to COVID-19 Community Forum

October 21, 2020

What happens if another student in my student's class tests positive for COVID-19?

IF the person who tested positive was not wearing a mask, and your student was within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes, your student is considered a close contact, and you will be personally notified by letter from the school that s/he has been exposed to COVID-19. This letter gives some general information about COVID-19, and how it is understood to be spread. It outlines the steps that your family must follow, including explaining the quarantine requirement, a list of the known symptoms, and directions of what to do if any symptoms develop. Your student's teacher(s) should be able to provide independent study work that allows him/her to keep up with the class, and the absences are not going to present a problem for your student. For the Fresno County Department of Public Health Guidance document, [click here](#).

What happens if my student refuses to wear a mask while on campus?

The school staff will have a conversation with your student and try to help him/her understand the reasons for wearing the mask and encourage him/her to comply. The administrator will listen to your child and help to problem-solve the situation – maybe it would help to provide “mask breaks,” or we can look for other solutions. We want your child to both attend school and be comfortable doing so; however, the bottom line is that in order to protect everyone's safety and keep the schools open, every student must wear a mask while on campus.

A member of my household has tested positive for COVID-19. What do I do?

ALL household members must quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure to the person with a positive test result. The Fresno County Department of Public health recommends the following steps:

1. The person that has tested positive is required to self-isolate at home, including complete separation from others in the house. This means no contact, no time together in the same room, and no sharing of any spaces, such as the same bathroom or bedroom.
2. Any other students or adults in the household are now considered close contacts and must quarantine for 14 days.
 - a. Quarantine for 14 days following date of last exposure to the person with a positive COVID-19 test, including complete separation from the person in your house with COVID-19.
 - i. If unable to completely separate from person with COVID-19, any other students or adults in the household must quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the person with COVID-19 during their isolation period.
 - b. If any household contacts develop symptoms during the 14 days, they should contact their medical provider for evaluation. The medical provider may or may not recommend testing for COVID-19.

3. We recommend evaluation by your student's medical provider if you have any questions or if their symptoms worsen, or go to the emergency room or call 911 if the person has any trouble breathing, continued pain or pressure in the chest, or have bluish lips or face.
4. Notify the school(s) of any changes in status.
5. Please notify each school that each of your children attends.
6. See the Health Guidance document [here](#).

What happens if my child starts feeling ill while at school?

Any child that comes to the health office will be screened by the medical staff – will be questioned about how s/he is feeling and how long the symptoms have been noticed, they will be examined visually, looking for symptoms such as coughing, flushed or clammy skin; and will have their temperature and blood oxygen levels measured and recorded. Your student will be placed in isolation, and you will be notified if the health staff determines that the child should go home, or if the staff recommends that s/he should be taken to a higher level of care. We recommend that you seek a COVID-19 test if the student's symptoms seem COVID-19-related. If you decide to get the test, and if the test is negative, your child is welcome to return to school when the symptoms have resolved, without the use of medication, for 24 hours. If the test is positive, your child must quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, plus 24 hours after symptoms have cleared, if they last beyond those 10 days.

See the district's COVID-19 Student Screening Flow Chart [here](#).

See the Health Guidance document [here](#).

What happens if my child regularly has seasonal allergies or other conditions that may look like COVID-19?

If your child comes to the health office, the screening may determine that COVID-19 is not the cause of the issue, though the health staff will err on the side of caution. If you know that your child is subject to symptoms that could cause him or her to be evaluated by the health office and possibly sent home when you can be pretty confident that the problem is seasonal allergies, it might be helpful to have your doctor write the school a note to keep on file at the health office outlining the normal symptoms that your child experiences. That may help the health staff evaluate the situation with more accuracy.

See the district's COVID-19 Student Screening Flow Chart [here](#).

What if my child misses school because of a COVID-19 case or exposure, and/or for other reasons, like getting sick with the flu or other illness? Are there a maximum number of absences allowed?

Under the current conditions, there are two reasons that there are NOT a maximum number of absences allowed. First, our responsibility is to keep the school community safe, so we do not want pressure on families to send students to school if they are not feeling well. No “toughing it out!” Secondly, there are platforms in place now that support the teachers in being able to provide education for students if/when they have to be absent for any reason. Attending class in-person, and working on their own at home for two weeks, are certainly not the same, but the teachers are ready to provide work in a manner that your child is used to, that should enable him/her to keep the learning loss to a minimum in that situation.

What if my child makes his/her mask gross or loses it on the way to school?

The schools have a supply of masks to provide students who need them.

What’s the difference between Quarantine and Isolation?

Quarantine: Separates individuals who are close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 positive case but who are not yet ill. Individuals who are close contacts quarantine for 14 days from the date of last known contact with a COVID-19 patient. Household close contacts quarantine for 14 days after last close contact with index case while they are in isolation.

Isolation: Separates infected people who have a confirmed COVID-19 test from others. Symptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals must isolate for a minimum of 10 days from onset of symptoms and at least one day without fever and an improvement in respiratory symptoms. Asymptomatic COVID-19 positive individuals must isolate for 10 days from test collection date.

See the Health Guidance document [here](#).

How will the decision be made to close a classroom, a cohort, a school, or the district, and move to virtual or distance learning?

Once the school opens to in-person learning, the decision to continue in-person or move to virtual rests within the school district, and is no longer connected to the county level of spread. Within the school, the guidance for administrators is to consult with the Fresno County Department of Public Health to consider moving to distance learning if a second case appears in one classroom, or if three cases appear across a school or grade-level cohort. The administration will notify the affected staff and families of the change to virtual learning, and the expected time line until the group can return to in-person learning. Catching an outbreak early will minimize the amount of time that an instance of disease spread forces the students away from the school campuses. Factors that will be considered in making this decision may include, but are not limited to:

- Were the people that tested positive wearing masks properly?
- Was physical distancing maintained?
- Where was the location(s) of the suspected exposure?
- Was proper PPE used while interacting with the person(s) that tested positive or were symptomatic?
- Are there prior cases of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the classroom, grade level or school?
- Were the windows open on the bus if the persons who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 were riding a bus?
- Are there household contacts that attend other classrooms, grade levels or schools?
- Were there close contacts in school sports or other after school programs?

See the Health Guidance document [here](#).

What if a teacher tests positive for COVID-19?

The teacher will remain at home for 10 days from the date of the positive test, or from the onset of symptoms, plus 24 hours after symptoms have resolved. The school will identify close contacts in the two days prior to the day the positive test was collected OR to symptom onset, up to the time the teacher was last in class. The school will send notification letter to all close contacts. The school will advise the teacher to have **ALL** household contact to quarantine for 14 days and to monitor for symptoms. If there are school-aged children in the household, notify their respective school sites. The school will clean and sanitize the teacher's classroom and any other school area that the teacher occupied for more than 15 continuous minutes in the two days prior to testing positive or becoming symptomatic, and will close the area, if needed.

See the Health Guidance document [here](#).

Will my elementary aged student be able to play with his or her friends outdoors during recess? Will s/he have to wear the mask the whole time? Are the kids expected to stay 6 feet away from each other while playing?

Students will be able to play with each other on the playground, within their cohort. They will be able to take a break from their masks while eating, drinking, and playing. We are issuing the students lanyards to help them keep their masks handy. Each school employee working directly with students will help them navigate the situation, help them balance between wearing a mask as much as possible to help keep everyone safe, and the natural need to breathe freely at times, work off their wiggles, and enjoy time with their friends!