

### **Positive Case Follow-Up**

PHMDC receives notification of all positive cases within Dane County, except people who have a positive at-home test. When an individual tests positive at a testing center, pharmacy, or health care center, their health care provider, testing center, or Public Health will notify them of their positive test.

#### **Q: When is someone infectious?**

**A:** Someone who tested positive is considered to be infectious from two days before symptom onset until they meet all of the following criteria: 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication, other symptoms are improving (but may still be present), and at least 10 days after symptom onset.

If the individual who tested positive does not have symptoms, they are considered to be infectious from two days before the test date until ten days after the test was collected.

#### **Q: How do I determine who is a close contact?**

**A:** An individual is considered a close contact if any of the following is true:

- Were within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 15 minutes total in a day.
- Had physical contact with the person
- Had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of the people (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items)
- Lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person

#### **Q: What is the CDC Close Contact Exception?**

**A:** In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were greater than 3 but less than 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the classroom settings or outside the classroom.

#### **Q: What do close contacts need to do?**

**A:** If a student or employee had close contact with another student or employee who tested positive, the close contact should follow quarantine protocols outlined below. If a close contact has a positive test for COVID, they should follow the isolation protocols below.

#### **Q: What are the CDC three quarantine options for close contacts: 14 days, 7 days, or 10 days.**

**A:** It is up to the school or district to determine quarantine guidelines. You can either choose to have close contacts quarantine for 14 days, or 7 or 10 days after exposure. Even if a family chooses the 7 day quarantine option, the school or district can enforce the 10 or 14 day quarantine for attendance at their site.

Quarantine means separating people who were around someone who was sick, just in case they get sick. Since people who were around other sick people are more likely to get sick themselves, quarantine prevents them from accidentally spreading the virus to other people even before they realize they are sick. People who are in quarantine stay at home and avoid going out or being around other people. This includes staying home from school. When quarantining, you should always:



- Monitor your symptoms for 14 days after your last exposure to COVID-19
- Get tested as soon as possible if you develop symptoms

It is safest if you quarantine for 14 days after your last exposure. No test is required to end quarantine.

You do have other options for quarantine. These options are to:

- Quarantine for 10 days after your last exposure. No test is required to end quarantine. Monitor yourself for symptoms until 14 days after your last exposure.
- Quarantine and get a PCR tested for COVID 6 or 7 days after last exposure. If your PCR test is negative, you could end quarantine after 7 days. The 7-day quarantine requires a negative PCR test that was collected 6 or more days after the last exposure (note that Wisconsin guidelines require this test to be on day 6 or later, which is different than CDC's recommendation).

**Q: When does a close contact not need to be excluded from school?**

**A:** There are scenarios in which a close contact may not need to quarantine.

**Scenario 1:** If an individual who is a close contact had a positive viral test (PCR) (with or without symptoms) in the 90 days before the exposure, they do not need to quarantine (the 90 days is calculated using their first positive test). If someone had a positive test more than 90 days before the exposure, they do need to quarantine.

**Scenario 2:** Individuals who completed a COVID vaccine series (2nd dose for a 2 dose vaccine and 1st dose for a 1 dose vaccine) at least 2 weeks before the exposure do not need to quarantine. They should be notified of the exposure, monitor for symptoms, be tested 3- 5 days after exposure, and should wear a mask in public indoor settings (including school) for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

**Q: What if a student tests positive and has siblings or other students in their household?**

**A:** Scenarios in which a siblings or other students in the household need to quarantine would be:

- If a student has a positive COVID-19 test, their siblings or other students living in the same household would be required to quarantine because they are a close contact.
- If the close contact is unable to have complete separation from the student or person who had a positive COVID test, quarantine starts after the person who tested positive ends their isolation.
- If the close contact is able to completely separate from the person who tested positive, they start quarantine after last contact with the person who tested positive.
- If this household member eventually has a positive test, they will then follow the COVID-19 isolation guidelines for a person with a positive test.

**Q: How do you determine when someone can come back after being isolated or quarantined?**

**A:** When calculating isolation and quarantine, the date of symptom onset/positive lab test (for asymptomatic) or last date of exposure to an infectious person is day 0.