



On August 2, 2021, the Georgia Department of Public Health issued an Amended Administrative Order signed by Kathleen Toomey, M.D., Commissioner, State Health Officer providing the following guidance for schools, “recognizing the importance of in-person learning, schools may elect to adhere to different quarantine requirements as developed by the local school district to facilitate in-person learning. Individuals subject to quarantine may only adhere to such different quarantine requirements **as long as the point of exposure occurred in the school setting and as long as they remain asymptomatic.**”

In an effort promote increased in-person learning, we will be implementing the following guidelines **beginning Sept. 20, 2021:**

COVID-19 Quarantine Guidelines COVID-19 Positive Test Results

- **DPH guidance will be followed for all positive COVID-19 cases.**
- Please report positive COVID-19 cases to the school nurse at (229)-559-5413.
- School nurse will determine return to school dates for positive cases.

School-Based - Close Contacts/Exposures

- Parents will be notified when a student meets “close contact” criteria.
- Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet of a positive person for a total of 15 minutes.
- **Close contacts must quarantine for 7 days and are strongly encouraged to wear a mask for 14 days following exposure.**
- Close contacts should monitor symptoms daily for 14 days following exposure.
- Close contacts may return to school after 7 days **if they do NOT develop any symptoms.** If symptoms develop, they are not to return to school.
- **Parent Option for Extended Quarantine-** Parents may choose to keep their child out for the full 14 days to monitor. If a parent chooses this option, just let the school nurse know.
- All students and staff should be practicing social distancing to the extent practical.
- Additional quarantine will be required if the individual tests positive or begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms such as fever over 100.4, chills, cough, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat.
- **Vaccinated staff and students are not required to quarantine unless positive or symptomatic regardless of exposure location.**

Community-Based - Close Contacts/Exposures

- Based on the amended order, schools may only make modified decisions for school-based exposures. Community exposures are the responsibility of your medical provider or the Department of Public Health who should provide your quarantine timeframe. The return to school date is the first school day after your quarantine ends.
- **Community-based exposures** are to follow DPH guidelines and return to school when quarantine ends.
- **Vaccinated staff and students are not required to quarantine unless positive or symptomatic regardless of exposure location.**
- Please contact your medical provider or Echols County Health Department for assistance in determining the return to school date (first school day after quarantine ends). Once you know your return to school date, please contact the school nurse at (229)-559-5413. Once completed, student attendance will be marked accordingly.

Note: A person who has clinically recovered from COVID-19 and then is identified as a contact of a new case within 3 months of symptom onset or first positive test of their most recent illness does not need to be quarantined as discussed in this document. However, if a person is identified as a contact of a new case 3 months or more after symptom onset or first positive test, they should follow quarantine recommendations for contacts.