

Proposed Amendment to MSSD COVID-19 Management Plan (specifically pertaining to non-household close contacts)

The parents of any student identified as a close contact of a COVID positive case will be notified of the potential exposure by school staff. Parents will be informed that their student is not being excluded from school at this time, but they do have the option to have them quarantine at home if they choose. The parents will also be informed that the Tennessee Department of Health may contact them with quarantine instructions and that MSSD will exclude close contacts from school upon receiving notification from the Tennessee Department of Health. This policy conforms to the guidance outlined in the Tennessee Department of Health's *Protocol for Schools Assisting Public Health with Close Contact Identification for COVID-19 Cases*. Masks are encouraged, but not required for close contacts that remain in school.

8/13/21

- Added quarantine exceptions for K-12 indoor classroom settings.

8/5/21

- Reorganized and streamlined document (example scenarios were removed).
- Updated quarantine release guidance to clarify testing timeline "on or after Day 5" vs. "after Day 5", per CDC guidance.

Cases

Must be isolated for a minimum of 10 days after onset and can be released after they are without fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) **and show improvement in symptoms.** Some severely ill patients will need to be isolated for at least 20 days. **Cases without symptoms must be isolated through 10 days after their specimen collection date.**

Minimum 10 days	24 hours
(Day 0) SYMPTOM ONSET DATE OR SPECIMEN COLLECTION DATE IF NOT EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS	WITHOUT FEVER FOR 24 HRs AND SYMPTOM IMPROVEMENT
	CASE RELEASED FROM ISOLATION

Notes:

- Lingering cough or loss of taste or smell should not prevent a case from being released from isolation.
- If a follow-up PCR test is positive, cases do not need to re-enter isolation as long as they have completed the minimum 10-day isolation and had symptom resolution for a minimum of 24 hours. If a case has been released from isolation and symptoms return, individuals do not need to re-enter isolation as long as they have completed the minimum 10-day isolation and had symptom resolution for a minimum of 24 hours.

Fully Vaccinated Close Contacts

Are not required to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single dose vaccine) **and have remained asymptomatic since the exposure to COVID-19.** Vaccinated healthcare personnel, patients, and residents in healthcare settings should follow CDC guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html>

VACCINATED NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

Fully vaccinated non-household contacts should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they are asymptomatic, and should wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until test results are negative. If they test positive, they should isolate.

VACCINATED HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

A household contact is an individual who shares any living spaces with a case, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens, etc.

- If the contact can separate from the case within the home, then they can follow the non-household guidance. To separate, the case 1) must never be in the same room as household members 2) cannot share plates, cups, dishes, or phones with household members 3) should have their own bathroom (or conduct daily bathroom cleaning).
- If the contact cannot separate from the case in the home should get tested 3-5 days after initial exposure to the case and after the end of the case's isolation (after day 10).

Unvaccinated Close Contacts

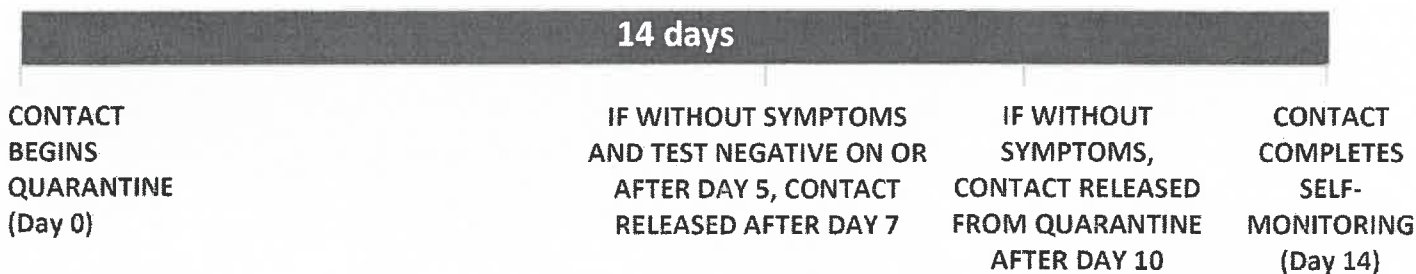
Must quarantine after exposure to a COVID-19 case according to non-household or household contact guidance. If symptoms develop, close contacts should isolate and be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated. Close contacts must quarantine regardless of whether the case was symptomatic. Exposure includes contact with a case during the time period beginning two days prior to case's symptom onset (or specimen collection date if case never experiences symptoms) through the end of the case's isolation period

UNVACCINATED NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

TDH and CDC recommend a 14-day quarantine. Acceptable alternatives to a 14-day quarantine include:

- after Day 10 (returning to regular activities on Day 11) without testing if the contact does not have symptoms.
- after Day 7 (returning to regular activities on Day 8) if the contact does not have symptoms and if they test negative by a PCR or antigen test collected on or after Day 5.

Regardless of quarantine end date, contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms and wear a face mask through Day 14.



UNVACCINATED HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

A household contact is an individual who shares any living spaces with a case. This includes bedrooms, bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens, etc. Household contacts must be quarantined after exposure to a case.

Quarantine start: Household contacts must quarantine as long as they are exposed to the case, and for a 7-14 day period beyond their last exposure.

- If the contact can separate from the case within the home, then they are no longer considered exposed. To separate, the case 1) must never be in the same room as household members 2) cannot share plates, cups, dishes, or phones with household members 3) should have their own bathroom (or conduct daily bathroom cleaning).
- If the contact cannot separate from the case within the home, the contact must quarantine for the case's (minimum) 10-day isolation period plus an additional 7-14 days.

Quarantine end: Once exposure is no longer occurring (either the case has completed their 10-day isolation or the case and contact have separated within the home), then quarantine can end:

- after Day 14, as recommended by TDH and CDC
- after Day 10 (returning to regular activities on Day 11) without testing if the contact does not have symptoms.
- after Day 7 (returning to regular activities on Day 8) if the contact does not have symptoms and if they test negative by a PCR or antigen test on or after Day 5.

Regardless of quarantine end date, contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms and wear a mask through Day 14.

Notes:

- If a household contact develops symptoms of COVID-19, they become a case. They should begin isolation as a case and consider getting tested.
- Household contacts will often need to remain at home longer than the initial case.
- If a case has been released from isolation and symptoms return, household contacts do not need to restart the 10-day period as long as the case has completed the minimum 10-day isolation and had symptom resolution for a minimum of 24 hours.



Quarantine Exceptions

Previous cases are not required to quarantine if they meet all the following criteria:

- Had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- Have recovered **and**
- Remain without COVID-19 symptoms

In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 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 face masks; and
- Other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting.

Antibody testing can exclude contacts from quarantine if they meet all the following criteria:

- Tested antibody positive within 3 months before or immediately following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 **and**
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure **and**
- Will have limited or no contact with persons at high risk COVID-19 severe illness. This group includes older adults, pregnant people, and those with certain medical conditions (cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease [including COPD, asthma, interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension], dementia, diabetes (1 or 2), down syndrome, heart conditions [including heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension], HIV infection, immunocompromised state, liver disease, overweight and obesity, sickle cell/thalassemia, smoking (current/former), solid organ or blood stem cell transplant, stroke or cerebrovascular disease, substance use disorders.
- **Note:** Antibody testing is not appropriate for return to school for persons exposed in daycare and K-12 settings.