



Muncie Community Schools

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STUDENT-STAFF RETURN PROTOCOLS **FOR COVID-19 CASES**

Changing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health agencies have made it difficult to understand what the process is for returning to school once a student or staff member develops symptoms, tests positive or is a close contact for COVID-19. It can be even trickier for household members of someone in one of those categories. The conditions outlined below in the 10 color-coded boxes explain MCS protocols for quarantine periods and returning to school.

Please keep in mind the following definitions:

- **“Close contact”** refers to anyone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-positive person for more than 15 minutes in a day or had physical contact with that person or lives with or stayed overnight with that person. If in a classroom, that distance is reduced to 3 feet if both people are wearing masks. If a close contact develops symptoms or tests positive, then other household members become close contacts and must quarantine accordingly.
- **“Quarantine”** means to separate from others by staying home and avoid being around anyone even if there are no symptoms.
- **“Isolation”** means to separate from all others, including those in the same household. Anyone in isolation should stay in a separate room and not share bathrooms or eating areas with other members of the household.

1 - SYMPTOMS (NO COVID TEST)

- **QUARANTINE:** 10 DAYS FROM ONSET OF SYMPTOMS **OR** UNTIL DOCTOR PROVIDES NOTE STATING SYMPTOMS ARE NOT COVID-19.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS AND FEVER-FREE FOR 24 HRS. WITHOUT MEDICATION AND WITH IMPROVING SYMPTOMS **OR** WHEN DOCTOR NOTE IS OBTAINED.

2 - SYMPTOMS AND POSITIVE TEST

- **ISOLATION:** 10 DAYS FROM ONSET OF SYMPTOMS.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS AND FEVER-FREE FOR 24 HRS. WITHOUT MEDICATION AND WITH IMPROVING SYMPTOMS.

3 - SYMPTOMS AND NEGATIVE TEST

- **QUARANTINE:** NONE REQUIRED.
- **RETURN WHEN:** FEVER-FREE FOR 24 HRS. WITHOUT MEDICATION AND WITH IMPROVING SYMPTOMS.

4 - NO SYMPTOMS AND POSITIVE TEST

- **ISOLATION:** 10 DAYS FROM DAY AFTER TEST DATE.
- **RETURN WHEN:** ISOLATION PERIOD ENDS IF STILL SYMPTOM-FREE.

5 - CLOSE CONTACT WITHOUT SYMPTOMS**

- **QUARANTINE:** 10 DAYS FROM LAST CONTACT WITH COVID-POSITIVE PERSON.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS IF STILL SYMPTOM-FREE.

6 - CLOSE CONTACT WITHOUT SYMPTOMS AND A NEGATIVE TEST **

- **QUARANTINE:** 10 DAYS FROM LAST CONTACT WITH COVID-POSITIVE PERSON **OR** 7 DAYS IF TESTED NEGATIVE ON DAY 6 OR 7 OF QUARANTINE.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS IF STILL SYMPTOM-FREE.

7 - CLOSE CONTACT WHO DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS

- **QUARANTINE:** CLOSE CONTACT SHOULD GET TESTED. IF POSITIVE, QUARANTINE FOR 10 DAYS DATING TO ONSET OF SYMPTOMS. IF NEGATIVE, QUARANTINE IS STILL 10 DAYS IF TESTED ON DAYS 1-5 OF QUARANTINE, BUT ONLY 7 DAYS IF TESTED ON DAY 6 OR 7.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS AND FEVER-FREE FOR 24 HRS. WITHOUT MEDICATION AND WITH IMPROVING SYMPTOMS.

**Because MCS employees are “critical workers,” IDOH allows discretion to reduce or eliminate normal quarantine periods for them when no symptoms exist. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

8 – HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF SOMEONE WITH SYMPTOMS

- **QUARANTINE:** LIKELY NOT REQUIRED UNLESS THERE IS *STRONG INDICATION* OF SYMPTOMATIC PERSON BEING COVID-POSITIVE. IF REQUIRED, 10 DAYS FROM PERSON'S ONSET OF SYMPTOMS **OR** UNTIL SYMPTOMATIC PERSON RECEIVES A NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST **OR** UNTIL DOCTOR PROVIDES NOTE STATING PERSON'S SYMPTOMS ARE NOT COVID-19.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS **OR** WHEN DOCTOR NOTE IS OBTAINED.

9 - HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF COVID-POSITIVE PERSON

- **QUARANTINE:** 10 DAYS FROM COVID-POSITIVE PERSON'S ONSET OF SYMPTOMS *PLUS* AN ADDITIONAL 10 DAYS FROM THE LAST CONTACT WITH THE COVID-POSITIVE PERSON.
- **RETURN WHEN:** QUARANTINE PERIOD ENDS AND FEVER-FREE FOR 24 HRS. WITHOUT MEDICATION AND WITH IMPROVING SYMPTOMS.

10 - HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF CLOSE CONTACT

- **QUARANTINE:** NONE REQUIRED AS LONG AS THE CLOSE CONTACT IS SYMPTOM-FREE AND HAS NOT TESTED POSITIVE.

In addition to these situations, please note that anyone who has tested positive and been in quarantine *does not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to three months* as long as they do not develop symptoms again.