



# COVID-19 Protocols for Students

Canal Winchester Local Schools will continue to do our part to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We will strive to maintain 3 feet or more of separation and will continue to promote mask wearing, hand washing, additional cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces, and increased fresh air in buildings. Recommendations from world, national, and local health experts indicate 3-feet of separation in conjunction with wearing masks and sanitizing is an effective strategy to lessen viral spread.

Here are some common terms and definitions you may see throughout this document and hear in district communications for the remainder of the school year. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these terms or keep them handy to refer back to for clarification.

## Definitions

**CASE** is an individual who has tested positive with a viral (PCR) or antigen diagnostic test, with or without symptoms. A case can also include individuals who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 but have not been tested.

**CONTACT** (exposure) is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of a case for an accumulated time of 15 minutes or more, starting from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or for asymptomatic patients, 48 hours prior to positive specimen collection). A contact must quarantine but is allowed to attend school and ride school transportation.

**CLOSE CONTACT** (less than 3-feet exposure) someone who was within 3 feet of a case for an accumulated time of 15 minutes or more, starting from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 48 hours prior to positive specimen collection). A close contact must quarantine at home and cannot attend school while in quarantine unless the contact occurred in the classroom, they remain symptom-free & followed all guidance. *\*(see modified quarantine)*

**ISOLATION** separates people with an infectious disease from people who are not sick. If someone is confirmed to have COVID-19, they will be told to isolate themselves from others. While in isolation you should stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom if possible. If not possible, wipe down the bathroom after use.

**QUARANTINE** is to separate people who are exposed to an infectious disease to see if they may become sick. If someone has been exposed to COVID-19 (see Close Contact) they will be told to quarantine for 10 days from the date of their last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. It is not possible to “test out” of quarantine.

**MODIFIED QUARANTINE** – Provided that both a close contact and the COVID-19 positive person were both wearing a mask and the contact occurred in the classroom, such a person who needs to quarantine may still come to school, ride school transportation, and participate in school sports as long as they remain symptom-free. *(Applies to those without immunity)*

**ASYMPTOMATIC** means no symptoms. It is possible for an individual to have COVID-19 and not know it because they have no symptoms. An asymptomatic person can still spread the virus to others.

**SYMPTOMATIC** means exhibiting symptoms. Symptoms vary widely and may be mild to severe, the person can still spread the virus regardless of which symptoms they have or the severity of their symptoms.

**CONTACT TRACING** has been used for decades by state and local health departments to slow or stop the spread of infectious diseases. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should notify any person who fits the above definition of close contact.

**IMMUNITY** to the COVID-19 virus can occur by having tested positive for the virus and recovering within the past 90 days or by current vaccination\*. Per the CDC, people with this natural immunity may not have to quarantine if exposed in that 90-day period as long as they remain symptom-free. School Office or Clinic Staff will assess and work with each separate case to determine this. *\*(no current vaccines recommended for use on minors under the age of 16).*

**TESTING** - If anyone in a household is being tested for COVID-19, everyone in that household (unless immunity has been established by a current vaccination or by documented recovery from a positive diagnostic test case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days) must stay home at least until results are received.

## Establishing Immunity

**My student has already had COVID-19...do they still have to quarantine if exposed?** Immunity may be established two ways: Natural Disease or Vaccination. It is possible to avoid quarantine if exposed to someone who tests positive **as long as your student remains symptom-free**. All standard health requirements for normal communicable diseases and symptoms listed in [O.A.C. 3701-3-13](#) will still be followed, regardless of possible COVID-19 immunity (fever-free, vomiting/diarrhea-free, etc). Please keep a copy of your COVID-19 test results and health records to assist the School Office or Clinic Staff with determining your next step procedures or if your student can avoid quarantining.

### Natural Disease

**Has your student already had COVID-19 and recovered within the last 90 days?** The CDC guidance states: People who have **tested** positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

If someone has a positive viral test (antigen or PCR only, not antibody) within the past 90 days, they **DO NOT** need to quarantine if exposed to another COVID-19 case as long as they remain symptom-free. Without laboratory evidence (from their past COVID case), that individual needs to quarantine as required or determined by school contact tracing. It cannot be a clinical presumptive positive or epidemiologically linked case. **Please note that antibody tests do not count as diagnostic test. Evidence of positive antibodies from an assumed case do not allow for the quarantine exemption.**

### Vaccination

**Can my student get the vaccine?** Most likely not at this time due to no availability and no current recommendation for minors. At this time, there are no versions of the COVID-19 vaccination recommended for children under the age of 16. (Pfizer – age 16 & older; Moderna – age 18 & older; Johnson & Johnson – 18 & older). If your student falls into one of the vaccine-approved categories and has received the vaccine(s), please keep a copy of their vaccination record and work with School Office or Clinic Staff regarding this scenario. We know many families are eager to get the vaccine, however please do not ask your School Office or Clinic Staff if they have information about where or when students can get the vaccine. If the district receives future vaccine availability information from local health departments, we will notify families.

## How to Count Quarantine Days

**If your student is told to quarantine or isolate, this is how the District will determine the return date.** The date of symptom onset, date of sample collection for testing, or last date of contact with a positive case is counted as **day zero**. The day following any of these events is **day one**. Count the full 10-14 days depending on the situation; the date of return is **day 11** or **day 15** respectively. Each scenario may be different, so please confirm with School Office or Clinic Staff.

**Example:**

December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- Symptoms begin (day zero): **12/1**
- Staff, family members, housemates must quarantine for 10 days (**12/2** through **12/11** is the 10 days)
- All are released from quarantine (assuming all criteria are met) on: **12/12**
- If the COVID-positive person in your household is not able to avoid continual contact or is in need of care from others, those close contacts should quarantine until an additional 10 days after the COVID-19 person ends their isolation period.

Additional exposures/contacts to positive cases or development of symptoms may extend/impact your return date. Please keep your student's School Office or Clinic Staff up to date regarding any changes. As always, we will continue to follow local health guidelines and mandates and may adjust our district policies accordingly. **Please wait for official district communication before following any new COVID-19 recommendations you may hear from an outside source.**

## Symptoms

Any student who has any of the following COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of severity, should stay home from school, or if they are at school, they will be immediately be sent home. Please contact your student's school office, and the School Office or Clinic Staff will provide your next step guidance. Even if you believe your student has immunity, the rule of thumb is **When in Doubt, Symptoms = OUT**. This does not mean your student is guaranteed to be out for COVID-19, it just means that it is safest to not be in school while next steps and cause of symptoms are determined. If COVID-19 is suspected after speaking with clinic staff, any sibling or housemate of the symptomatic student (regardless of whether or not they have symptoms) must also remain out of school for the same 10 days or until a negative test & alternative diagnosis are received.

### Tier One

One or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever (100 or higher)
- New or worsened cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- New or worsened nasal congestion or runny nose

### Tier Two

\*Two or more of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Muscle or Body aches
- New or worsened fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

**Does that mean my student can still come to school if they only have one symptom from Tier Two?** Not necessarily. These symptom tiers are used more for assessing whether a student needs to quarantine or be tested for possible COVID-19. \*As with any illness, students must still follow all district student handbook communicable diseases guidelines for symptoms such as fever, vomiting/diarrhea, etc. listed in [Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-13](#), regardless of possible COVID-19 diagnosis.

## Protocols for Students with Symptoms

Symptomatic Students must do one of the following in order to return to school even if they have been vaccinated or have recently recovered from COVID-19:

- Quarantine (be out of school) for 10 days (from symptom onset). During this time, they should **not** be participating in any extracurricular activities or going anywhere other than to receive medical care.
  - Student may return to school on **Day 11 if**:
    - They are fever-free and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
    - Their symptoms have improved and they have no new symptoms.
- Obtain an alternative diagnosis; provide a note from their healthcare provider stating that the symptoms are due to something other than Covid-19
  - Student may return to school on the date indicated by the health care provider **if**:
    - They are fever-free and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
    - Their symptoms have improved and they have no new symptoms.
- Obtain testing for Covid-19; provide documentation from the health care provider of negative test results.
  - Student may return to school **if**:
    - They are fever-free and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
    - Their symptoms have improved and they have no new symptoms.

Any lingering symptoms\* must follow [Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-13](#) for isolation/exclusion requirements.

### **Family Members or Housemates of Students with Symptoms:**

Any family member or housemate of the symptomatic student, who also attends or works for CWLS, must also remain out of school for 10 days from the date of last contact with the COVID-19 symptomatic person, unless immunity has been established for the household member. If the symptomatic student receives an alternate diagnosis or negative test results, all family members or housemates may return to school as well if symptom-free. If the symptomatic student is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis, all siblings without documented immunity must also remain out of school for 10 days from symptom onset.

## **Student Who Has Been Exposed to a Positive Case (*OUTSIDE of the classroom environment*)**

Any symptom-free student who has been within 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more, of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 must quarantine unless immunity has been established. Please contact your student's School Office or Clinic Staff immediately to assess their individual quarantine protocols or to determine possible immunity.

### **Exposed Student without documented immunity must:**

- Quarantine for **10** days from the date of last contact with the positive case (unless School Office or Clinic Staff verifies immunity within last 90 days through clinical documentation only)
- Such a person may return on day **11** only if:
  - They have remained asymptomatic.
  - They have had no additional contact with a positive case.
- They must continue to monitor for symptoms, maintain distance, and wear a mask for the full **14** days.
- If they develop symptoms after day 10, they must return to quarantine and notify their School Office or Clinic Staff for further guidance.
- Even if not made to quarantine due to verified immunity, if the student develops symptoms any time during the 14 days following their exposure to the positive person, they need to contact their building immediately for further guidance.

### **FOR STUDENT ATHLETES ONLY:**

- Student athletes without immunity exposed to a positive case anywhere outside the classroom must quarantine from attending school AND athletic/extracurricular participation for **10** days before returning to participation in their sport/activity.
- These students will follow the same protocols above, and may return to school and school sports on day **11** (provided all criteria are met: no symptoms; maintain distance; wear a mask upon return, etc).

## **Student Who Has Been Exposed to a Positive Case (*INSIDE a classroom environment*)**

Any symptom-free student who was exposed to a COVID positive case in a classroom environment or on school transportation to or from school may be eligible for Modified Quarantine. Please contact School Office or Clinic Staff to confirm. Modified Quarantine is only applicable to exposures that occur in a classroom environment or on school transportation if all mask protocols were followed.

A classroom environment exposure includes anything that is part of a normal day for students, including recess and gym. While sports, extracurricular activities, and before/after care may take place on school property, they are not considered part of the classroom environment. Required school transportation includes busing to and from school only. Busing to and from sports, extracurricular activities, and before/after care are not considered required school transportation.

Per the Ohio Department of Health's Modified Quarantine protocol, students and adults in K-12 schools who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person in the classroom may continue to attend in person classes, use school transportation, and participate in school athletics only if:

- The exposure occurred within a classroom environment or while on required school transportation
- The person with COVID-19 and any associated contacts were wearing face masks that covered their nose and mouth at all times.
- They continue to follow appropriate sports and K-12 guidance.

**Even though your student may continue to come to school if eligible for Modified Quarantine, contacts are still considered under quarantine for everything other than attending school, riding the school bus, and participating in school sports.** This means they may not attend any other extracurricular activities/events or go anywhere outside of the home other than to attend school. Questions regarding exposures and Modified Quarantine should be directed to your School Office or Clinic Staff. Should your student have an exposure in the classroom environment, you will be notified by school personnel and given further guidance.

## Student Who Has Tested Positive

**Any student who tests positive must contact their School Office or Clinic Staff immediately. They will be advised to:**

- Immediately isolate for **10** days from the date of symptom onset, or if asymptomatic the date of testing (date sample was taken, not the date results were received). Continue to monitor for symptoms through day 14.
- Return on day **11 only if:**
  - Student is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
  - Student's symptoms have improved\* and they have no new symptoms.
  - Any lingering symptoms\* must follow [Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-13](#) for isolation/exclusion requirements.

### Family Members or Housemates of COVID-19 Positive Student:

Any family member or housemate of the COVID-19 positive student, who also attends school or works for Canal Winchester Local Schools, must also remain out of school for 10 days from the date of last contact with the COVID-19 positive person, unless immunity has been established. Please contact the other student's School Office or Clinic Staff to verify next steps. Sibling/housemate may return on day **11 only if:** they have remained asymptomatic. Documentation must be submitted to the office or clinic in their building **prior to** students returning to school. (Modified quarantine will most likely never apply to a sibling situation because the close contact would not have taken place inside the classroom and will be handled more like a community spread case).

## Contact Tracing

Upon notification of the existence of a positive COVID-19 case (staff or student) Canal Winchester Local Schools is required to begin contact tracing. This involves gathering a list of close contacts of the case starting 48 hours before symptoms began or if the case does not have symptoms, 48 hours before the date of test collection.

The positive case will be asked for the names of anyone they believe they have been in close contact with. Administrators will review class schedules, seating charts, cohort groups, bus information and extracurricular activities to determine if close contact might have occurred.

Students who are confirmed close contacts will be notified of the following information as soon as possible and without disclosure of any personal health information of the positive case:

- They have been identified as a close contact.
- They must quarantine for 10 days from the date of last contact with the positive case (unless immunity is established and verified by School Office or Clinic Staff & your student is symptom-free).
- Provided return date.
- Explain that they must continue to monitor for symptoms, maintain distance and wear a mask for the full 14 days.
- If they develop symptoms at any time they must notify their School Office or Clinic Staff.

## Resources

As you know, guidance and recommendations from health and medical officials is changing often. We will continue to update this document as the guidance and protocols change. When in doubt, please err on the side of caution and seek clarification from Human Resources or your Building Administrator. **Please wait for official district communication before following any new COVID-19 guidance you may hear from an outside source.** Here are some additional resources you may find helpful.



[Franklin County Public Health Website](#)



[FCPH Vax2Normal COVID-19 Dashboard & Resources](#)



[Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Sector-Specific Operating Info](#)

## Important Contacts

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