

Contact Tracing and Quarantining for the 2021-2022 School Year

Following CDC guidelines, contact tracing and quarantining will still be followed for the 2021-2022 school year in the Williamsport Area School District. The goal of these guidelines is to ensure our schools stay open and we can keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

Based on current CDC guidance, a **COVID-19 primary exposure is when any student who was sitting/standing under six feet away for more than 15 minutes from a student/staff member who has tested positive for COVID.**

Ways for Students to Avoid Quarantining from Primary Exposure

1. If a student is identified as a primary contact, but was wearing a mask, they may not need to quarantine based on the latest CDC guidelines. Each case will be reviewed following current CDC guidelines.
2. If a student has been vaccinated and is 14 days post first *or* second dose, they **will not need to quarantine** as long as they are asymptomatic.*

** The district must have proof of vaccination through a doctor's letter or copy of the student's vaccine card. (Letter **must** include dates of vaccination.)*

3. If a student has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, he/she **will not need to quarantine** as long as they are asymptomatic.

** The district must have proof of a positive test result to avoid quarantine. Students who were just presumed positive and not tested do not qualify to avoid quarantine.*

Returning to School if a Student is Quarantined

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, there are two options for WASD students to return to school following a COVID-19 exposure from which they need to quarantine. **Option 1** allows families to reduce the quarantine

period for their child from 10 days to 7 days, allowing them to return to school sooner.

Option 1

Students who are asymptomatic and have tested negative for COVID-19 on or after day five from the last exposure to a confirmed positive case (test must occur on day five or later), may return to in-person learning seven days after their last exposure date to a confirmed positive case.

Days should be counted as follows:

- Day 0: Date of Exposure
- Day 1: Quarantine Period Begins
- Days 2-7: Quarantine Period
- Day 5-7: COVID Testing (*cannot be earlier than day five*)
- Day 8: Student Returns (*with proof of negative test result*)

** Student must bring proof from a doctor of a negative test. Entry will not be permitted without the results.*

Option 2

Students who are asymptomatic and have not been tested for COVID-19 may return to in-person learning 10 days after the last exposure with a confirmed positive case.

Days should be counted as follows:

- Day 0: Date of Exposure
- Day 1: Quarantine Period Begins
- Days 2-10: Quarantine Period
- Day 11: Student Returns

Students should only return to school after their quarantine period if students have been symptom-free without the use of medication and students have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Attendance During Quarantine

If a student is quarantined from school due to a COVID case in the school setting, they will be marked as ESQ (excused quarantine). As long as school work is provided by the teacher and is completed while the student is out on quarantine, they will be marked as though they are present in school.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be marked as “E” (excused) for the 10 days that that they are out of school. The same goes for students who are quarantined from exposure in an out-of-school setting. These excused absences will not count towards nonattendance and truancy at school.