

WASD Updated Student Guidance for Positive Cases and Quarantining Following Exposure to COVID

Following updates and guidance from the CDC and PA Department of Health over winter break the Williamsport Area School District will implement recommended changes regarding positive cases, and quarantining guidance when someone is identified as a close contact. These changes apply for students in the WASD beginning on Jan 3rd, 2022.

Students Who Test Positive for COVID:

Regardless of vaccination status, any student who tests positive for COVID-19 must:

- Isolate for 5 days at home and not attend school/work
 - Day 0 is first day of symptoms, or date of + test if asymptomatic
- May return to school on day 6 but is required to wear a mask on days 6-10

***Any student who on day 6 has worsening symptoms or a fever, should not return to school until symptoms improve and no fever without medication for 24 hours.**

***Any student or staff who is not willing or medically able to wear a mask on days 6-10 while in school will need to remain in quarantine and can return on day 11.**

Students Who are Identified as a Close Contact

The recommendations below apply to asymptomatic students. Any student who develops symptoms after exposure to a COVID positive person and is identified as a close contact must be tested for COVID before returning to school. **(COVID test cannot be a take home test)**

***If you have a positive case in your home setting or household exposure, please contact the school nurse for guidance on quarantining and returning to school for students.**

The following groups of individuals do **NOT** need to quarantine from school after being identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID 19.

- Students who have received a booster vaccination and more than 2 weeks of time has passed
- Students who have completed the primary series of Moderna and Pfizer vaccine within the last 6 months and thus are not eligible for the booster vaccination
- Students who have completed the primary series of the JJ vaccine within the last 2 months
- Students who have had a documented case of COVID within the last 90 days.

***Students who are categorized into the groups identified above do not need to quarantine from school, but are required to wear a mask at all times in school for 10 days from date of exposure.**

The following groups of individuals **DO** need to quarantine at home after being exposed to someone with COVID-19 and identified as a close contact:

- Students who have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and have not received a booster vaccination
- Students who have completed the primary series of J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and have not received a booster
- Students who are **NOT** vaccinated

***Individuals who are categorized into these groups must quarantine at home for 5 days, and then wear a mask at school for an additional 5 days. (Days 6-10). This would include wearing a mask for extra-curricular activities.**

***Any student who is not willing or medically able to wear a mask on days 6-10 while in school will need to remain in quarantine and can return on day 11.**

Identification of Close Contacts in School Setting

Based on current guidance, a COVID-19 primary exposure in the school setting is when any student was sitting/standing under six feet away for more than 15 minutes (over a 24-hour period) from a student/staff member who has tested positive.

- If both are wearing masks, the exposed student is not considered a close contact if 3-6 ft away.
- If positive student/staff was not wearing a mask all students under 6 feet would be identified as a close contact.

***Once students are identified as a close contact using the criteria above the CDC and PA Department of Health recommendations for quarantining are utilized.**

It is the responsibility of the student's family to inform the school of close contact cases that may occur outside of the school setting.