

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

Following updates and new guidance from the CDC and PA Department of Health on 1/7 the Williamsport Area School District will implement the recommended changes regarding quarantine guidance when a student is identified as a close contact. No changes have been made to quarantining guidance for positive cases. Changes to the guidance from 1/7 are highlighted in red below.

### Summary of Changes from PA DOH 1/7 Identification as a Close Contact:

- *Old Guidance: Students who have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and have NOT received a booster vaccination WILL need to quarantine for 5 days and mask for 5 days.*
- *New: Students who are 5-17 and have completed the primary series of COVID-19 do NOT need to quarantine (removed booster requirement) Students will need to mask for 10 days in school.*
- *Students who are 18 or older and have received ALL recommended vaccine doses, including booster will not need to quarantine (A person is considered boosted the same day they receive their booster)*

*\*The new guidance takes away the booster requirement for 5-17-year-olds. As long as a student has had their primary COVID-19 vaccine and is 14 days post fully vaccinated they do not need to quarantine from school for 5 days any longer when identified as a close contact. They will need to be masked for 10 days in school.*

*\*Students who are 18 years of age and older are considered boosted the same day they receive their booster. In the old guidance this was 14 days.*

### 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.

**\*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. Based on vaccine status, students may need to quarantine for up to 10 days for in home cases.**

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 are 18 or older and have received ALL recommended vaccine doses, including boosters when eligible (A person is considered boosted the same day they receive their booster)**
- **Students who are 5-17 and have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. (Must be 14 days post primary vaccine)**
- Students who have had a confirmed and documented COVID-19 case 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 are 18 or older and have NOT received ALL recommended vaccine doses, including boosters when eligible (A person is considered boosted the same day they receive their booster)**
- **Students who are over 18 or older and 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.**

