

# Who is a close contact?

Close contact determination for schools meeting all of the criteria outlined below.

**In special circumstances, the below tool *may* be used to determine who needs to be quarantined in the event of an student/staff member with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 in school.**

*In addition, consider the following:*

- The most effective mechanism to limit the potential for disease transmission and reduce disruption to in-person learning is creating small cohorts and following the “standard contact identification” path (generally, quarantine of an entire exposed classroom). Use of the “Targeted Contact Identification” approach represents a less-tested strategy and may be associated with greater risk.
- Targeted contact identification is likely to be most impactful and feasible in middle and high school settings
- Contacts should be identified based on the full contagious period, including 2 days before the sick student/staff member’s symptoms started or positive test date, whichever is earlier
- All time-based criteria are cumulative
- Schools are strongly encouraged to complete a “contact tracing drill” before adopting a targeted contact identification strategy

## TARGETED CONTACT IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

- DISEASE PREVALENCE**
  - Is your county in “Protect our Neighbors” or “Safer at Home” 1 or 2?
  - Is there only one student/staff member in the class who has COVID-19 or is currently symptomatic?
- ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY**
  - Is there a plan in place to track and respond to illness-related absences in the school?
  - Does every class attended by the affected student/staff member have a seating chart?
  - Do students remain in their seats enough to make seating charts applicable?
  - Is there a plan in place to perform contact tracing in conjunction with local public health in the school?
- MINIMIZING TRANSMISSION RISK**
  - Is screening completed for each student and staff member each day?
  - Did the affected student/staff member wear a mask at all times (except during mealtimes)?
  - Were steps taken to minimize transmission risk during meals (e.g. lunch outside, staggered mealtime, spacing)?
  - Did the affected student/staff member refrain from activities such as singing, playing wind/brass instruments, or vigorous exertion known to increase the risk of disease transmission above normal masked speech?

### TARGETED CONTACT IDENTIFICATION

Follow quarantine guidance for students who meet ANY of the following criteria:

- Were within 6 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or greater, when both parties are masked OR
- Were within 12 feet\* of the individual for 15 minutes or greater, when either parties is unmasked and indoors (e.g. mealtimes)

YES  
to all

NO  
to any

### STANDARD CONTACT IDENTIFICATION

Follow quarantine guidance for all students who meet ANY of the following criteria:

- Were in the classroom with the individual for 40 minutes or greater
- Were within 6 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or greater, when both parties are masked OR
- Were within 12 feet\* of the individual for 15 minutes or greater, when either parties is unmasked and indoors (e.g. mealtimes)

To request assistance  
or provide feedback:  
<https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback>



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