

## **FORT MILL SCHOOLS 2021-2022 COVID GUIDANCE** *as of 9/13/21*

Fort Mill Schools asks staff and parents to conduct symptom checks of themselves or their child(ren) each morning before school. This process assists in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. If your child is experiencing the following symptoms, please keep the child at home and consider having the child seen by a healthcare provider. The following symptoms are outlined in the SC DHEC School and Childcare Exclusion List.

One or more of the following symptoms:

- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or worsening cough
- Fever of at least 100.4

Or two or more of the following symptoms:

- New onset of severe headache
- Fatigue
- Persistent or worsening sore throat
- Congestion or rhinorrhea
- Myalgia (pain in a muscle or group of muscles)
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea

### **PROCEDURES IF A STUDENT/STAFF MEMBER IS EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 IN THE SCHOOL SETTING**

Students:

- Students will immediately be provided a mask and will report to the school nurse for assessment.
- Parents will be contacted to pick up their child within an hour of the school nurse determining that the student is displaying COVID symptoms.
- Parents are asked to report any student's positive test results to the school or use the FMSD self-reporting form located on the district website (link below).
- Should a refusal to test take place then the student will be required to isolate for a period of 10 calendar days.
- Any student that is currently waiting on results from a COVID test and was tested due to displaying symptoms will be excluded from school until the test results have been received.
- The school/district will report any positive case of COVID-19 to the SC DHEC.

FMSD staff:

- Staff will immediately be provided a mask and will report to the school nurse for assessment or asked to contact their healthcare provider.
- If symptoms are determined, staff members will be asked to go home and are asked to report positive test results to the school and use the FMSD self-reporting form located on the district website (link below).
- Should a refusal to test take place then the staff member will be required to isolate for a period of 10 calendar days.

- Staff who are currently waiting on results from a COVID test and were tested due to displaying symptoms will be excluded from school until the test results have been received.

All areas used by a person who exhibited symptoms will be cleaned and disinfected before further use.

### **CONTACT TRACING PROCEDURES**

Case investigation and contact tracing are critical strategies to identify and isolate COVID-19 cases in order to reduce transmission among the student and staff populations.

DHEC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) of the infected person.

- The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) wore masks during the exposure time. This exception does not apply if teachers, staff, or other adults were the positive case in the classroom setting. *PLEASE SEE INDOOR CLOSE CONTACT SCENARIOS FOR CLARIFICATION.*
- Close physical contact can include contact with the mucous membranes of a COVID infected person through such things as, kissing, sharing eating/drinking utensils, etc., regardless of the time frame.
- For close contacts who must quarantine, the school nurse and/or school administration will communicate with students, parents and staff concerning the quarantine process via automatic messaging. A follow-up letter detailing the isolation and quarantining process, along with official return dates, will follow from the district office.

#### *Athletics/Activities\**

- Close contacts will include anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) of the infected person.
- To determine who may be a close contact, investigators need to consider total time spent together during the infectious period. This includes time on the bus, bench, locker room, field/court/arena, etc. unless it is known that they were unlikely to be in close proximity to each other.

\*Activities where forced expiration produces increased respiratory droplets in the surroundings, including shouting, singing, physical exertion, etc.

#### *Fully Vaccinated*

Fully vaccinated people and people verified (positive PCR or antigen test) to have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms, do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. Individuals may **voluntarily** choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need to quarantine. Fully vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and it is encouraged for them to wear a mask at school until 14 days after exposure or they receive a negative test result.

- Staff: please use the vaccine reporting link located on the district website under COVID information.
- Students: please provide a copy of your vaccine card to your school nurse.

### Transition to Virtual Learning

- DHEC provides threshold guidance to schools for the consideration of temporarily going to virtual learning based on professional judgements from DHEC medical epidemiologists:
- Consideration should be given should the school be unable to maintain operations with current staffing as determined by the school district.
- Should a 30% or higher rate of absenteeism in the school or grade level due to COVID-19, including students in isolation and quarantine, or if 5-10% or higher of the student body be in isolation, simultaneously, after testing positive consideration should be given by the school district.
- Should a school or grade level transition to virtual learning for one of the above scenarios, it is recommended that they remain in virtual for 7-14 days and then reevaluation the situation.

## **QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS**

### Positive

A positive test result (with or without vaccination) will result in exclusion from school or work for 10 days of isolation following either the first date that symptoms began or the date of testing if asymptomatic.

### Close Contact

Students or staff members who have been identified as close/household contacts of a person infectious with COVID-19 and DHEC recommended for 14-day quarantine must be excluded from school until completing the recommended quarantine period.

Two options are available to SC schools to shorten this 14-day quarantine period:

1. Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms were reported during daily symptom monitoring.
2. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a viral test is negative AND if no symptoms were reported during daily symptom monitoring.
  - The viral test may be collected no sooner than Day 5 to be used to shorten quarantine, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than completion of Day 7.
  - Viral tests include those collected by a swab of the nose or throat (PCR or antigen tests). Blood tests for antibodies may not be used to shorten quarantine.
  - For close contacts who must quarantine, the school nurse and/or school administration will communicate with students, parents and staff concerning the quarantine process via automatic messaging. A follow-up letter detailing the isolation and quarantining process, along with official return dates, will follow from the district office.

### Extended Quarantine

Any student or staff member who develops symptoms while in quarantine must be immediately excluded and should be tested or complete the fourteen (14) day quarantine period.

- If symptoms of COVID-19 occurred during the individual's quarantine then individuals will quarantine until Day 14 after last exposure to the COVID-19 case.

Household

Isolating from the positive case:

For household members who can separate from the household member with COVID-19, they should quarantine the 7-day or 10-day close contact criteria to shorten the quarantine based on their date of last contact with the positive household member.

Not able to isolate from the positive case:

For household members who are not able to separate from the household member with COVID-19 because they are caring for them or do not have a separate room they can use, they will quarantine for the positive person’s 10-day isolation period and then apply the 7-day or 10-day criteria to shorten the quarantine period based on the day when the COVID-19 case is no longer in isolation.

Cohort Quarantine

Consideration will be given by school administration and district administration to cohort quarantine students and staff, who have not voluntarily provided a vaccine card, in a classroom or other cohort of students for a 14-day period in the event that community spread has been identified within or stemming from said cohort.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

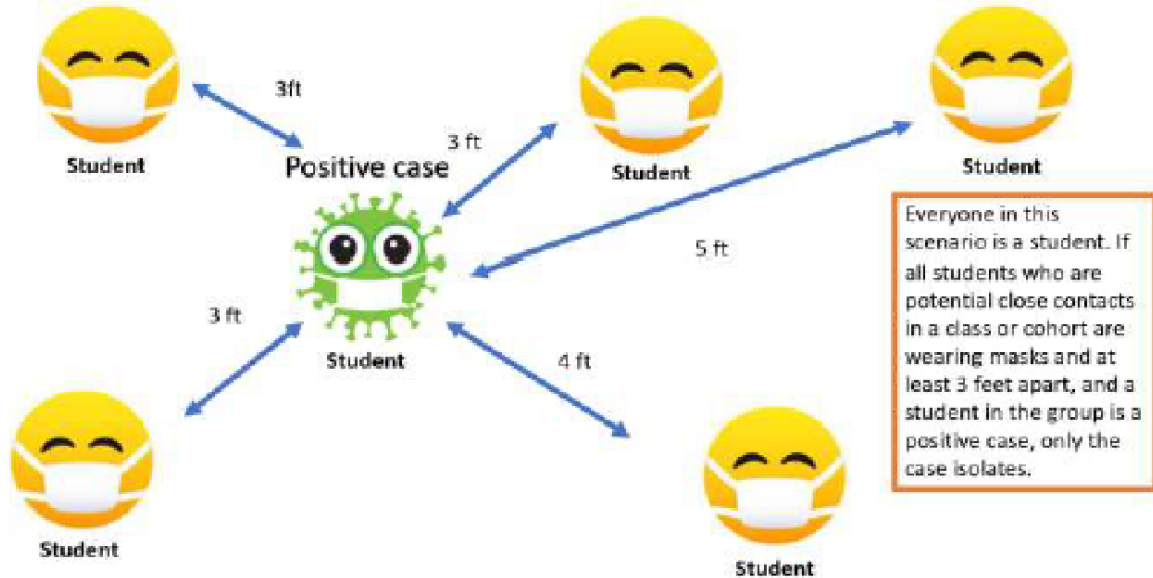
- If community spread of the COVID-19 virus can be determined, the FMSD Superintendent can order classrooms, hallways, programs, entire schools, or the District to close for short periods of time or longer based on the situation.
- Students who are excluded from in-person learning for times of isolation or quarantine are able to work with their teachers and school administrators in obtaining assignments to complete at home. Should community spread be found in an entire school, the school will move to a 14-day virtual program.
- Absentee policy during times of isolation or quarantine will follow the same guidelines as school board policy AR JH-R Student Absences and Excuses, Approval of absences in excess of 10 days. Principals have the ability to approve or disapprove succeeding absences in excess of 10 days.

**TESTING**

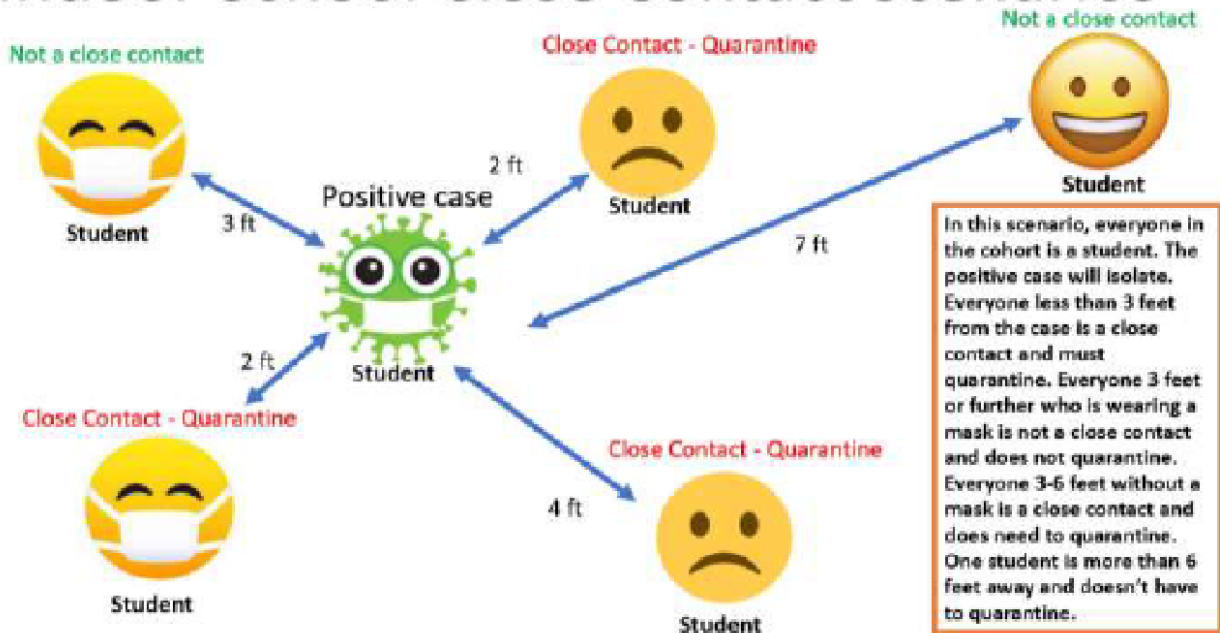
Fort Mill Schools strongly recommends that students and staff use testing locations where the tests are administered by a healthcare professional or pharmacy. Should an at home test or OTC test be submitted to the school, the following will be required:

|                               | <b>At-home test<br/>POSITIVE</b> | <b>At-home test<br/>NEGATIVE</b>  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Symptomatic w/o Close Contact | Isolate and follow guidance      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excluded from school per the school exclusion list</li> <li>• Must follow up with a PCR test or be excluded from school for 10 days</li> </ul> |
| Symptomatic w/ Close Contact  | Isolate and follow guidance      | Must follow up with a PCR test  |
| No symptoms w/o Close Contact | Isolate and follow guidance      | May return to school  |
| No symptoms w/ Close Contact  | Isolate and follow guidance      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine per guidance and must follow up with a PCR test in order to lessen quarantine period to the 7/10 timeframe</li> </ul>               |

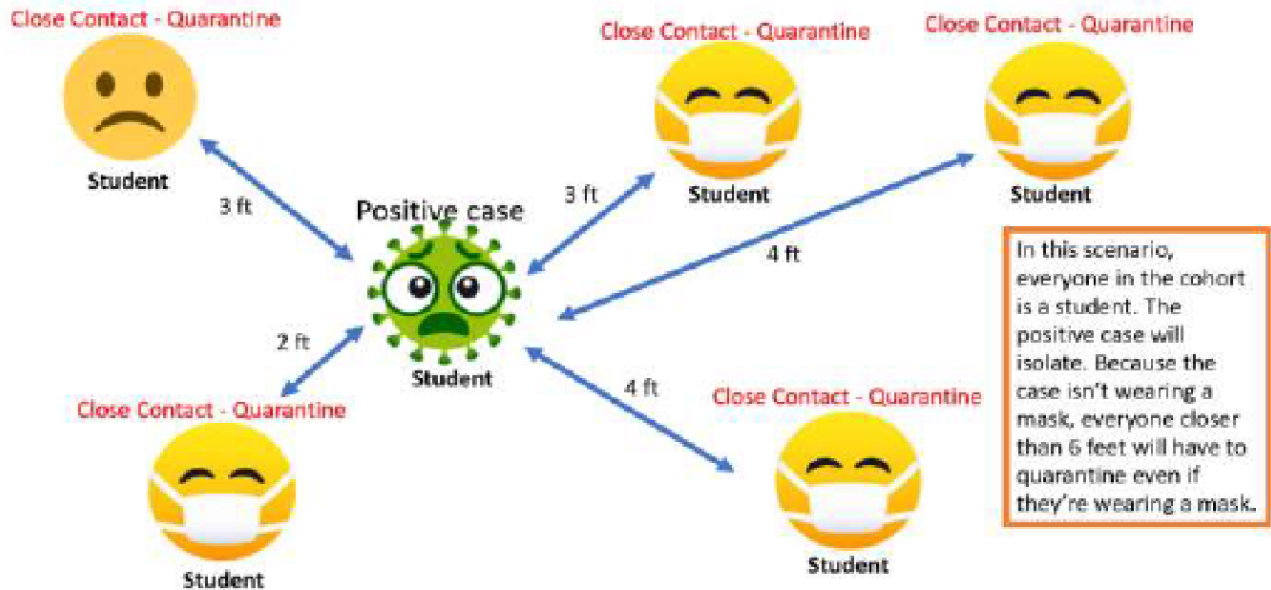
# Indoor School Close Contact scenarios



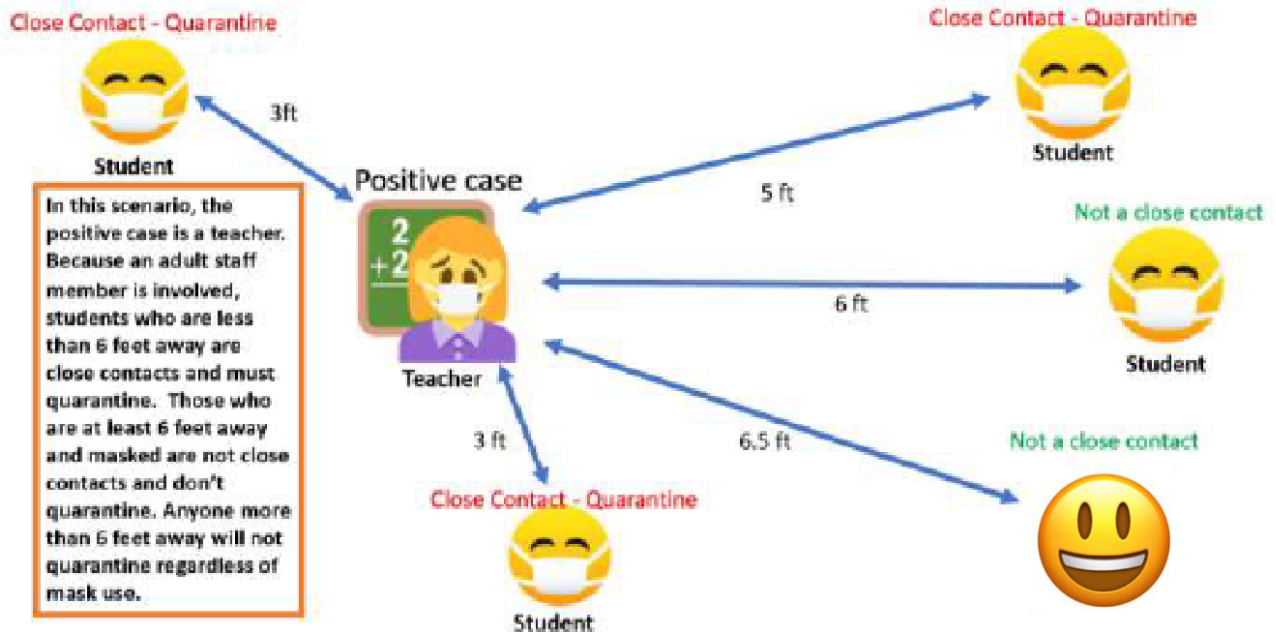
# Indoor School Close Contact scenarios



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# Indoor School Close Contact scenarios



| Close Contact Status & Quarantine Requirement |              |            |               |            |               |               |
|---|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | Under 3 Feet |            | 3 - 6 Feet    |            | 6+ Feet       |               |
| Positive Student                              | Masked       | Unmasked   | Masked        | Unmasked   | Masked        | Unmasked      |
| Masked  | Quarantine   | Quarantine | NO Quarantine | Quarantine | NO Quarantine | NO Quarantine |
| Unmasked                                      | Quarantine   | Quarantine | Quarantine    | Quarantine | NO Quarantine | NO Quarantine |
|   |              |            |               |            |               |               |
|   |              |            |               |            |               |               |
| Close Contact Status & Quarantine Requirement |              |            |               |            |               |               |
|   | Under 3 Feet |            | 3 - 6 Feet    |            | 6+ Feet       |               |
| Positive Staff                                | Masked       | Unmasked   | Masked        | Unmasked   | Masked        | Unmasked      |
| Masked  | Quarantine   | Quarantine | Quarantine    | Quarantine | NO Quarantine | NO Quarantine |
| Unmasked                                      | Quarantine   | Quarantine | Quarantine    | Quarantine | NO Quarantine | NO Quarantine |

Please see below for definitions and links for more information:

**Definitions**

**Isolation:** Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. They must remain at home or the place they were told to isolate and avoid contact with other people until their isolation period is over. This includes avoiding contact with those in their household as much as possible.

**Quarantine:** Quarantine is used to separate people who are close contacts of someone with a contagious disease, like COVID-19, from others for a period of time to see if they become sick. This is a method to prevent the spread of disease. When someone is quarantining, they should stay home and avoid contact with other people until the quarantine period is over. This includes people in their household as much as possible.

**Close contact:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) of the infected person.

- The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) wore masks during the exposure time. This exception does not apply if the positive individuals were teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Close physical contact can include contact with the mucous membranes of a COVID infected person through such things as, kissing, sharing eating/drinking utensils, etc., regardless of the time frame.

**Contact tracing:** The practice of identifying, notifying, and monitoring individuals who may have had close contact with a person determined to be a confirmed or probable case of an infectious disease as a means of controlling the spread of infection.

**Fully vaccinated:** A person is considered fully vaccinated, ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

**Diagnostic Testing:** The use of viral (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 tests to determine if an individual with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 is currently infected with SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Rapid Test:** A test (antigen or PCR) that is administered and processed within the same day on premise without sending to another location for processing. Results are typically processed and available within several minutes.

**OTC:** Over the Counter Use – a medical product approved for use at home without need of a medical professional and without a prescription.

**PPE:** Personal protective equipment that includes but is not limited to medical grade gloves, face masks, N-95, Respirators, face shields, and gowns.

**Prevention strategies:** Actions taken to help reduce the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Links:**

Quick Link to Fort Mill Schools COVID Information Landing Page  
<https://www.fortmillschools.org/covidinformation>

SC DHEC School and Childcare Exclusion List  
<https://scdhec.gov/health/child-teen-health/school-exclusion>

SC DHEC COVID-19 Pandemic Definitions  
<https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Covid19-schools-and-childcare-center-definitions.pdf>

SC DHEC COVID-19 Interim Guidance for K-12 School Operations  
<https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Interim-COVID-19-Guidance-for-K-12-School-Operations-2021-07-29.pdf>

SC DHEC Option to Shorten Quarantine  
<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/options-shorten-quarantine-covid-19>

SC General Assembly Proviso 1.108 of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Appropriations Act concerning mask wearing within schools  
[https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124\\_2021-2022/appropriations2021/tap1b.htm#s1](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/appropriations2021/tap1b.htm#s1)