



**Dorchester  
School District 4**

## **UPDATED DD4 COVID Student Protocols**

**In an effort to keep DD4 aligned with SCDHEC guidelines, the COVID Response Team, in collaboration with all district nurses, has updated the COVID Student Protocols.**

### **What is exposure**

Per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), exposure occurs if a person has been in close contact (within three ft (student) to six feet (adult)) for greater than or equal to 15 minutes with a person with COVID-19 over a 24-hour period.

### **What happens when a student is exposed to COVID-19**

Once it is confirmed a student has been exposed to COVID-19, the following steps should take place.

#### **If the close contact has been fully vaccinated and is asymptomatic:**

A fully vaccinated close contact does not have to quarantine, however it is recommended he/she:

1. Wear a mask for ten days from the date of exposure.
2. Socially distance to the greatest extent possible (for the same period of time).
3. If he/she remains asymptomatic, he/she is not required to have a negative Covid test to return to work, however, it is recommended he/she gets one 7 days from the date of exposure to be safe.
4. If he/she becomes symptomatic, he/she needs to notify the school nurse or school administrator immediately and he/she is required to quarantine for 10 days from the date symptoms begin.
5. It is recommended that the close contact take a COVID test 3-5 days after the exposure regardless of vaccination status.

#### **If he/she has been fully vaccinated but is symptomatic:**

1. He/she is required to quarantine for 10 days.
2. It is recommended that the close contact take a COVID test 3-5 days after the exposure regardless of vaccination status.
3. Current guidelines allow the 14-day quarantine to be shortened to 10 days. The student may return to school on the 11th day with the signed staff or parent letter agreeing to daily temperature checks and required mask-wearing from day 11 to day 14. If a parent does not sign the return to school form, the student must quarantine the full 14 days.

#### **If he/she has NOT been fully vaccinated:**

1. He/she is required to quarantine beginning 10 days from the date of exposure.
2. It is recommended that the close contact take a COVID test 3-5 days after the exposure regardless of vaccination status.
3. Current guidelines allow the 14-day quarantine to be shortened to 10 days. The student may return to school on the 11th day with the signed staff or parent letter agreeing to daily temperature checks and required mask-wearing from day 11 to day 14. If a parent does not sign the return to school form, the student must quarantine the full 14 days.



## **Dorchester School District 4**

### **Anyone considered a close contact will be asked the following questions:**

1. Have you been fully vaccinated? (Either the J&J, or both shots of Moderna or Pfizer) *The staff member and/or the student does not have to respond to this question.* Those that do not feel comfortable reporting will be required to quarantine per the non-vaccinated protocol above.
2. If yes, please provide verification of the completed vaccination card.
3. Do you currently have any Covid symptoms?

### **What happens if someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19:**

1. Regardless of vaccination status, anyone in the household will be required to quarantine for 10 days from the date of the positive diagnosis within the house given that the exposure is ongoing.
2. The student may return to school on the 11th day with the signed staff or parent letter agreeing to daily temperature checks and required mask-wearing from day 11 to day 14. If a parent does not sign the return to school form, the student must quarantine the full 14 days.
3. It is recommended that the close contact take a COVID test 3-5 days after the exposure regardless of vaccination status.

### **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine**

- DD4 will follow the SC DHEC requirements when reporting positive cases and contact tracing.
- Students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will wait in a protective isolation area until picked up by a parent/guardian (within the hour). While in the isolation area the student will be asked to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth per the SC DHEC guidelines.
- DD4 will follow the most up-to-date quarantine and isolation guidelines as recommended by SC DHEC.
- The principal and/or the school nurse will report all positive cases to the DD4 COVID-19 Student Database. The Lead Nurse will compile information from the COVID-19 Database and will forward to SC DHEC in accordance with reporting guidelines.
- Students and staff will not be required to quarantine if they provide verification of vaccination unless symptomatic.

### **Please be aware of the following COVID-19 symptoms**

The CDC reports people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms -- ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Please watch for the following.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea