



UPDATED DD4 COVID Student Close Contact 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 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 **10 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 however, it is recommended he/she gets one **5 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 **5 days** from the date symptoms begin. The student can return to school on day 6 after symptoms began but must wear a mask on days 6-10.

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

1. He/she is required to quarantine for **5 days**.
2. It is recommended that the close contact take a COVID test **5 days** after the exposure regardless of vaccination status.
3. The student is required to wear a mask on days 6-10.

If he/she has NOT been fully vaccinated:

1. He/she is required to quarantine for 10 days from the date of exposure or 7 days with a negative COVID test** on or after day 5.
2. Current guidelines allow the 10-day quarantine for close contacts to be shortened to 7 days. The student may return to school on the 8th day with a negative COVID test and the signed parent letter agreeing to daily temperature checks and required mask-wearing from day 8 to day 10. If a parent does not sign the return to school form, the student must quarantine the full 10 days.

*Fully vaccinated means having all of the vaccine doses they're eligible for (completed initial vaccination series *and* booster for those eligible by age and time since initial series). DD4 will also consider a student fully vaccinated if they can show proof of having had COVID in the past 90 days.

**To return on day 8 following a close contact, the negative COVID test cannot be a self-administered home test.



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 parent/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.

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 (or 7 days with a negative COVID test** on day 5) 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 8th day with a negative COVID test and the signed parent letter agreeing to daily temperature checks and required mask-wearing from day 8 to day 10. If a parent does not sign the return to school form, the student must quarantine the full 10 days.

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 will not be required to quarantine if they provide verification of vaccination unless symptomatic or the close contact is within their household.

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

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**To return on day 8 following a close contact, the negative COVID test cannot be a self-administered home test.