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Fall 2020 Reopening Plan
Frequently Asked Questions – Handout 2

1. How do I screen my child before school daily? What happens if there is an exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 in school? What about confidentiality?

- Students (and staff) will use the following tool to screen themselves for symptoms before departing for school daily:
 - Temperature check
 - Is my child taking any medication to treat or reduce a fever such as Ibuprofen (i.e. Advil, Motrin) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol)?
 - Is my child experiencing any of the following?

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
Fever (100.4 or higher) Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing	Sore throat Runny nose/congestion Chills New lack of smell or taste Muscle pain Nausea or Vomiting Headache Diarrhea

Students must stay home if they:

- Have one or more symptoms in Group A **OR**
- Have two or more symptoms in Group B **OR**
- Are taking fever reducing medication

After a Positive Case of COVID-19

The PA Department of Health (DOH) or county and municipal health departments (CMHDs) staff will notify CASA immediately upon learning that a person with a *confirmed or probable* case of COVID-19 was present at the school or a school event while infectious. DOH or CMHD staff will assist the school with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations. CASA will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual.

It is the responsibility of DOH or CMHD staff to contact a student or staff person with COVID-19, inform close contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved, including siblings and other household members, regarding self-quarantine and exclusions. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications from DOH or the CMHD to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the DOH or CMHD staff.

CASA will contact local DOH or CMHD staff before acting in response to a known or suspected communicable disease. DOH and CMHDs will provide guidance to CASA regarding disease information, appropriate letters and communications, identification of high-risk individuals, appropriate action and treatment, and on-going support and assistance.

- If the person is present on school property when DOH or CMHD staff notify the school of the positive case information, the person will immediately, but discreetly, be taken to the COVID-19 related isolation space (nurse's exam room) for pick up.
- CASA will contact the DOH or the CMHD for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies CASA of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.
- **The entire building does not need to be evacuated.**
- CASA will work with Harristown Property Services and will wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting the area. If not feasible, CASA will wait as long as possible. If seven days have passed since the sick individual was in the affected area, cleaning is not needed, however, it will still occur.
- Areas that were used by the sick person will be closed off and not used again until cleaning and disinfecting has occurred. CDC protocols as outlined in the Health and Safety Plan will be followed.

- Students/parents (and staff) will report symptoms to Nurse Stillwater, Mrs. Hill, and Mr. Wendling/Mrs. Rhinehart. Mr. Wendling/Mrs. Rhinehart will notify staff members and families of potential exposures and closures. CASA will, however, take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual.

Contact Tracing

Robust surveillance, case investigation, contact tracing and isolation of positive cases or quarantine of close contacts can slow and stop the transmission of COVID-19.

Pennsylvania's public health infrastructure of epidemiologists, community health nurses, and CMHD staff are the backbone of this work.

DOH and its CMHD partners have established procedures for timely communication with school entities when there is a probable or positive COVID-19 case. Local DOH staff or the CMHD will notify CASA and PDE immediately upon learning that someone who tested positive for COVID-19 was present at the school or school event while infectious. DOH or CMHD staff will assist the school with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations.

DOH or CMHD staff will assist CASA with contact tracing and may request information regarding potential close school contacts from school nurse/staff. Decisions to track additional health information (i.e., quarantine timeframes) will be made at the local school level.

CASA will take measures that allow for exposed individuals to be more easily traced:

- **Use assigned seating for each class when feasible.**
- **Take attendance for every class and include all individuals (staff and contractors) who were in the classroom.**
- **Use sign-in sheets for in-person meetings to document staff attendees.**
- **Keep accurate records of any persons other than students and staff that enter the building, their reason for being there, the locations in the building they visit, and the names of close contacts they visit in the building if possible.**

Attendance Policies

Current quarantine guidance for close contacts of persons with COVID-19 may present attendance challenges for students who are quarantined because of a household contact with a case. A "close contact" is defined as either being within approximately six feet of a COVID-19 case for 15 or more minutes (close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case), or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). See the [Department of Health Case versus Contact](#) companion document for more information on these distinctions.

CASA will be prepared to refer symptomatic individuals or those who have a known exposure to a confirmed case to an appropriate health care provider or testing site. Refer to DOH information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing for details on current testing locations throughout the Commonwealth.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>

- CASA will support students and staff who are quarantined by allowing for leniency in absenteeism.

Returning to School

- Staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 should seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions before returning to school.
- Staff and students with fever or symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 and no known direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 may return to school when they are asymptomatic and have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine or have confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that explains the COVID-19-like symptom(s).
- Staff or students with symptoms who have had a direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 will be considered probable cases and should remain excluded from school/work until **Release from Isolation Criteria** (located below) has been met.
- A student or staff member who is quarantined following close contact with a case may not return to school until cleared to do so by DOH or the appropriate CMHD. A negative test obtained prior to the end of quarantine does not clear an individual for return. The entire quarantine period must be completed. See CDC guidance on **Quarantine** located below.

Discontinuing Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19

Accumulating evidence supports ending isolation and precautions for persons with COVID-19 using a symptom-based strategy. Specifically, researchers have reported that people with mild to moderate COVID-19 remain infectious no longer than 10 days after their symptoms began, and those with more severe illness or those who are severely immunocompromised remain infectious no longer than 20 days after their symptoms began. Therefore, CDC has updated the recommendations for discontinuing home isolation as follows:

Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days* have passed since symptom onset and
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms have improved

*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days that may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset.

Quarantine

This is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. You should stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Who needs to quarantine?

Anyone who has been in **close contact with someone who has COVID-19** including people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- **You were within six feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes**
- **You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19**
- **You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)**
- **You shared eating or drinking utensils**
- **They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you**

Steps to Take

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

Closing School

The Department of Health will continue to monitor community transmission rates and other surveillance metrics across the commonwealth, including Pre-K to 12 school specific outbreaks of COVID-19. Based on this disease monitoring and surveillance, the DOH may, in close coordination with PDE, issue guidance related to targeted school closures as part of a wider public health mitigation strategy.

In most instances, a single case of COVID-19 in a school would not warrant closing the entire school. Community spread and how much contact the person with COVID-19 had with others, as well as when such contact took place, need to be considered. If the spread of COVID-19 within a school is higher than in the community, or if the school is the source of an outbreak, administrators will work with local health officials to determine if temporarily closing the school building is necessary.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>