

Hello Dr. Harner,

The COVID-19 Response Team has reviewed the questions from your school nurses. The responses are given in red below, and all guidance is taken directly from CDC school guidance. These are only recommendations, with your final health and safety plan determining the actual procedures.

At this link, please find a copy of [Quakertown Community School District's 2021-22 Health and Safety Plan, approved by the board on August 26, 2021](#). As you will note throughout the plan, the board's direction to the Administration is to seek and implement guidance from BCHD for any situations that are not specifically addressed in the approved plan, and the Administration may not implement any mitigation measures not explicit in the plan unless we have written direction from BCHD.

In a meeting with our nurses yesterday, they identified a number of questions for which they need written guidance in order to take actions consistent with their professional judgment. These questions are listed below. Please provide a written response so that we are able to implement BCHD's recommendations for these questions.

The following asymptomatic people with recent exposures do not need to quarantine at home:

-People who have been fully vaccinated (but should be in school with a mask during their quarantine period.)

-People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months

Questions about household contacts:

1. What is the appropriate protocol when there is a COVID positive person in the household? If there is a positive COVID-19 case in the home, the quarantined member should stay home for 10 days from the last exposure to the positive. That number can be shortened to 7 days (with a test on day 5 or later) if the positive case can truly isolate from the rest of the household. Can the student(s) in the household attend school if asymptomatic? No, not during their quarantine period.
2. Can the student(s) in the household attend school if they have one symptom? If the student is in quarantine from an exposure and is symptomatic, it is strongly recommended that they have testing completed. They should not be attending school while in quarantine regardless.
3. If yes, are there any other mitigation measures that must be put in place for the student(s) while at school?
4. If no, when can the student(s) return to school assuming they are not symptomatic themselves? The quarantined students may return to school after the completion of their quarantine period. The date may change based on how many positive individuals are in the household.

5. Are the student(s) required to be tested prior to return? No, not if they complete the 10 day quarantine period. That number can be shortened to 7 days (with a test on day 5 or later) if the positive case can truly isolate from the rest of the household.
6. Should these situations be discussed with BCHD individually to obtain written guidance in each specific situation? If so, what is the expected turnaround time to obtain a response? No, each situation does not need to be addressed individually with the BCHD. The nurses should refer to your Health and Safety Plan. The BCHD is always available for consultation, and our recommendations will be based on CDC school guidelines.

Questions about response to testing results:

1. If an asymptomatic student/staff member is tested, can they attend work/school while awaiting the results of the test? It depends on why they were tested. If a person is being tested as part of a screening program, or for any reason other than after an exposure, they can remain at school. If a fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individual was identified as a close contact, then they can continue to attend school, and should, according to CDC, test on day 5-7. If someone is symptomatic and a known contact, then they would not attend school/work. If they were symptomatic without a known contact, then you would refer to your Health and Safety Plan for symptoms.
2. If a negative test result is obtained but an individual still has symptoms, can they attend work/school? If yes, are there any other mitigation measures that must be put in place for the individual while at work/school? If the individual does not have COVID-19, then you would refer to your Health and Safety Plan.

Questions about close contacts:

Note about close contacts: QCSD's plan provides for distancing "where feasible," lunches in the cafeteria, "normal" bus seating, and "normal" classroom practices, so any student in a given classroom, lunch or bus could be a close contact. Seating charts and other strategies to narrow down who is a close contact do not exist this year. Notification letters will be sent broadly - to an entire classroom, bus, lunch, etc. to be sure we notify anyone who could be a close contact to monitor for symptoms.

1. Can all close contacts continue to attend work/school? Only if they are fully vaccinated or have had had COVID-19 in the previous 90 days. A close contact is defined as contact with a COVID-19 positive individual at a distance of less than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes.
2. Are there any additional mitigation strategies that should be applied to close contacts? Assigned seating to reduce number of contacts. Ensure masks are not off at lunch for greater than 15 minutes at one time and students are seated 3 feet apart.

Questions about Isolation/Quarantine:

1. QCSD's approved plan provides for 7 days isolation from school for symptomatic/positive cases. Are there any additional mitigation strategies that should be applied to individuals returning on day 8, or do they just return? The BCDH recommends a 10 day isolation period for all symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. If someone returns prior to 10 days according to the approved plan, they should be masked through day 10.
2. If still exhibiting symptoms, do they still return on day 8? No, they should remain out through day 10.