

COVID CLOSE CONTACT ISOLATION Q & A

1. My child has been identified as a Close Contact, and I know he now cannot attend school for 10 days, assuming he is free of symptoms. Are his siblings - who are also MCS students - considered Close Contacts? Should I keep them at home too?
 - No, siblings are not considered Close Contacts, and they should continue attending school unless they have symptoms or are awaiting test results. IF you choose to keep the siblings at home, then they will be counted absent, using one of the 10 parent notes as allowable in our Attendance Policies.
2. My child has been identified as a Close Contact, so should I get her tested?
 - At this time, the TN Department of Health is still not recommending testing unless symptoms are detected. IF you choose to test your child, a positive result will begin a 10-day quarantine from the test date. A negative COVID-19 PCR test, administered after Day 5, will shorten the required 10-day quarantine to 7 days. Documentation must be provided to the school for your student to return earlier.
 - Please notify the school if you test and report the eventual testing results.
 - If your child becomes a positive case, then Close Contact Tracing will occur for your child by the school IF your child was present in the school for the 48-hour window prior to the onset of symptoms or positive test result.
3. My child has been identified as a Close Contact, can she attend after-school extra-curricular activities and sports activities?
 - No, if your student is a Close Contact, it is expected the student isolate from others and may not attend school or school functions. In addition, the student may not attend any school functions, even off campus. The student will not be permitted to enter MCS property during the quarantine, and if violated for off-property events, the health department will be notified.
4. My child was identified as a Household Close Contact when a relative who lives in the home became positive. How many days does he need to stay in isolation from school?
 - When Household Contacts are provided the Isolation Letter, 10 days are immediately initiated. Schools will not allow a return to class before the 11th day. A negative COVID-19 PCR test, administered after Day 5, will shorten the required 10-day quarantine to 7 days. Documentation must be provided to the school for your student to return earlier.
 - The family and/or the Health Department may provide extensions based on the family's ability to isolate the positive case from others in the home. With the TDH review, the 10 days would start when the separation from the positive household member occurs. If a separation cannot occur, then the isolation would increase to 20 days – 10 days isolation for the positive person and an additional 10 days for the close contact beginning the last day.
5. Can I do anything to reduce a 10-day Close Contact Isolation?
 - A negative COVID-19 PCR test, administered after fifth day, will shorten the 10 day quarantine to 7 days for asymptomatic individuals.
 - Documentation must be provided to the school for your student to return earlier.
 - Students are provided a date to return on the 11th day, assuming there are no additional days for Household Exposure and no symptoms are detected.
6. What if symptoms develop during a Close Contact Isolation Period?
 - If symptoms develop during the quarantine period, the individual must complete isolation for an additional 10 days.

7. Can I do anything to reduce a 10-day symptom isolation?
 - Yes, provide one negative PCR test (not a rapid test) after the onset of symptoms with no fever and improvement in symptoms for 24 hours. Provide the documentation to the school for an early re-entry.
8. While my child is on isolation how will his academic instruction be handled?
 - Your child will not be counted absent. The teachers at your child's school will contact you and your child to make arrangements to continue with instruction. Please don't forget to check SeeSaw and Canvas as appropriate for the age of your child.