Addendum 9

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together

Connecticut State Department of Education

Contact Tracing Scenarios in Schools

August 27, 2020 (Updated January 4, 2021)

This is a working document, which may be updated frequently due to the rapidly changing response to this pandemic emergency and ongoing guidance updates.

This document is meant to be used as one tool that can inform the decision-making process for local health departments and school districts when considering how to address potential exposure to COVID-19 in the school setting. Many factors should be considered when deciding who to exclude: whether to only exclude those who meet the definition of close contact or to go beyond excluding only close contacts and excluding others, for example, an entire cohort. The first and most important step is to understand the timing of symptom onset of the affected person to be able to determine if exposure occurred in the school setting.

Local circumstances should be considered when making decisions impacting specific school districts and schools. **Decisions related to the need for isolation or quarantine should be made in consultation with local public health officials and informed by the Connecticut State Department of Education and State Department of Public Health Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts.**

Definitions

Case: A person with a positive test result for COVID-19.

Close contact: Spending a total of at least 15 minutes (within 24 hours) within 6 feet of a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 during their infectious period or having direct contact with an infected person's droplets (e.g., cough, sneeze).

<table>
<tr><th>Scenario</th><th>Considerations</th><th>Possible Exclusions*</th></tr>
<tr><td>One confirmed case in the school.</td><td rowspan="3">Assessment of mitigation measures in the school, including social distancing, interaction between cohorts, mask wearing, disinfection and cleaning, school building ventilation, and hand hygiene might allow for some students inside an affected cohort, and staff to not be considered close contacts.</td><td rowspan="3">Students and staff who are determined to be close contacts to a case are excluded from school for an appropriate period of quarantine (see Addendum 5 for more information on the appropriate period of quarantine).

AND/OR

All students/staff in any cohort(s) where the case spent time (a total of at least 15 minutes combined during a 24-hour period) are excluded from school for an appropriate period of quarantine.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Two or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Two or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to an exposure outside the school setting (e.g., in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Two or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts).</td><td>Assessment of mitigation measures in the school, including social distancing, interaction between cohorts, mask wearing, disinfection and cleaning, school building ventilation, and hand hygiene might allow for some students inside an affected cohort, and staff to not be considered close contacts.

Assessment of activities/events with additional interactions outside of school might result in other individuals outside of the affected cohort being considered close contacts.</td><td rowspan="3">Students and staff who are determined to be close contacts to a case are excluded from school for an appropriate period of quarantine (see Addendum 5 for more information on the appropriate period of quarantine).

AND/OR

All students/staff in the cohort(s) where the case spent time (a total of at least 15 minutes combined during a 24-hour period) are excluded from school for an appropriate period of quarantine.

OR

Close school for the length of time needed to respond to administrative issues (e.g., staffing shortages) or as deemed appropriate by local health officials for the purposes of public health response.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Multiple cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple cohorts with no clear connection between cases.</td><td rowspan="2">Assessment of mitigation measures in the school, including social distancing, interaction between cohorts, mask wearing, disinfection and cleaning, school building ventilation, and hand hygiene might allow for some students inside an affected cohort, and staff to not be considered close contacts.

Assessment of activities/events with additional interactions outside of school might result in other individuals outside of the affected cohort being considered close contacts.

Assessment of community case rates and transmission.</td></tr>
<tr><td>A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community.</td></tr>
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** Decisions about exclusions will be based on the considerations and the individual circumstances of the case.*