

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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## Memorandum

**DATE:** March 4, 2021  
**TO:** School District Superintendents, School Principals and School Health Coordinators  
**FROM:** Florida Department of Health  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Guidance

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The Florida Department of Health has statutory authority pursuant to sections [252.36](#), [381.0031](#), and [381.00315](#), Florida Statutes, to quarantine and conduct contact tracing of individuals. To reduce the time a student is away from in-person learning, school districts should follow the guidance of the local county health department to implement the quarantine options recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### What is an exposure?

Per CDC guidelines an exposure is defined as individual who has been within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

### What are the quarantine options?

- If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on Day 6 or later and receives a negative result, then they may end quarantine after completion of Day 7.
- Without testing, an asymptomatic close contact may end quarantine after completion of Day 10.
- Under special circumstances, students should quarantine for 14 days. This would apply to someone who will be exposed to medically vulnerable individuals.

### Additional quarantine considerations

- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19.
- Vaccinated persons with an exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) and remain asymptomatic.

For additional guidance, please contact your designated local [county health department](#) epidemiology staff or visit the CDC's webpage at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/contact-tracing.html>.

cc: County Health Department Administrators  
County Health Department Nursing Directors