

**2021-2022 Porter-Gaud Quarantine/Isolation Protocol**  
**[Updated: August 13, 2021]**

**Isolation/Quarantine/Contact Tracing:** Isolation and quarantine are essential prevention measures that will continue to be enforced in accordance with CDC/DHEC.

***\*\*\*Please note this protocol could change at any point depending on transmission activity within our PG community and the recommendations from DHEC & CDC.***

**Close Contact:**

- CDC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24 hr period, regardless of mask use. An infected individual can spread COVID starting from 2 days before the onset of symptoms or for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date until the positive individual meets criteria to end isolation.
- **Exception:** DHEC defines close contact among students in the K-12 setting as those unvaccinated students within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) until the infected person meets criteria for release from isolation. While mask use among unvaccinated individuals of all individuals age two years and older is strongly recommended, the presence or absence of masks does not affect the DHEC definition of a close contact for K-12 students.
  - **This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.**
- The standard CDC definition of a close contact (less than 6 feet apart, regardless of mask use, for a total of 15 minutes or more) applies to all unvaccinated adults, including teachers, staff, or other adults in the school setting.

**Contact Tracing:** In collaboration with DHEC, contact tracing will be performed on all confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with the school to determine close contacts and implement quarantine measures. Testing is recommended for all close contacts. CDC-Contact Tracing

**Quarantine:**

- **All individuals identified as close contacts exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 MUST quarantine for no less than 10 days.** Quarantine may end after Day 10 after last exposure to the case if **no symptoms** develop throughout the quarantine period **and** the individual has a negative PCR test at day 7 or later. The individual may return to campus on day 11 after the date of their last exposure. For Days 11 -14 the individual must be manually screened by the school nurse or other appointed school staff member. If any symptoms develop the individual **MUST** stay home from campus. The school nurse has the discretion to not allow an individual on campus if they have any symptoms post-exposure.
  - Rationale: "With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk after completing 10 days of quarantine is estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of about 10%." By also requiring a negative PCR test at day 7 or later further decreases the risk of transmission.

- If an individual does not want to test for COVID-19 during their quarantine, they must complete the full 14 day quarantine and be symptom free throughout those 14 days to return to campus.
- A negative COVID-19 test before day 7 without symptoms will not be accepted. The test must be performed 7 days after exposure if the individual is asymptomatic.
- All individuals who end quarantine after 10 days must strictly adhere to Porter-Gaud's Health and Safety requirements (wear a face covering, maintain physical distancing, hand hygiene) while on campus. If an individual is found not to follow these practices they will be required to finish their 14 day quarantine at home.
- At this time, Porter-Gaud School **will not** adopt the optional 7 day quarantine with a negative test given the current surge of COVID. We will continue to evaluate this in the school setting and may elect to shorten quarantine in the coming weeks.
- **Individuals must comply with quarantine recommendations as set forth by the school. This cannot be countered by a family physician to shorten this quarantine period.**
- **Household contact:** If the student or staff member lives in the same household as a known case of COVID-19, they must quarantine for an additional ten days after the date their household member has been cleared from their isolation period unless the confirmed household member is able to completely isolate from all other family members for the duration of their isolation period.
- **Those who have recovered from COVID-19:** If a student or staff member is a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 by antigen or PCR, they do not need to quarantine again after close contact to someone with COVID-19 in the first three (3) months after recovering but will for any close contact that happens after that three (3) month period.

#### **Close Contacts who are Fully Vaccinated:**

- Individuals are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- Individuals who are identified as close contacts who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine at this time. However, they must strictly follow health & safety measures both on and off campus.
- The fully vaccinated individual may continue to come to campus following these mitigating measures:
  - You must wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth for at least 14 days.
  - You must self- monitor for any COVID symptoms. If you develop any symptoms, even very mild ones, you MAY NOT come to campus. Please notify the nurses if any symptoms develop. The nurses or appointed school staff will manually screen any students coming to school who are close contacts but fully vaccinated.
  - You must keep your distance from others of at least 6 ft when feasible.
  - You should perform hand hygiene often.

- Do not attend any large gatherings.
- Avoid touching your face, nose or mouth.
- It is recommended that you get tested 3-5 days after the last exposure, or sooner if you become symptomatic.

**Isolation:** This is used to separate individuals with COVID from those who are not infected.

- Any Faculty/staff/student who tests positive for COVID must isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of their symptoms of COVID-19 or the date of collection of their positive test if they are asymptomatic. Additionally, they must be free of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and overall symptoms must be improving for at least 24 hours to end isolation after 10 days.
- Confirmed individuals MAY NOT return to school or school activities while in isolation.
- A subsequent negative COVID-19 test does NOT alter this isolation period.

**Protocol for Return to School and end Isolation After COVID-19 Illness:**

Any Faculty/staff/student who tests positive may return to campus after all three of the following are met:

- Ten (10) days\* have passed since symptoms started - and -
- Twenty-four (24) hours have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever - and -
- Overall improvement in symptoms

Those who test positive by a PCR or antigen test but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until ten (10) days\* after the specimen was collected.

\*Note: some people may be required to extend the isolation period to twenty (20) days. Their doctor will need to determine if this is necessary.

The criteria above should be used to determine eligibility to return to school. Negative PCR test results are not required nor recommended after meeting these criteria.

- **Athletics:** If the student participates in sports, they must remain out of sports for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms of COVID-19 or the date of collection of their positive test if they are asymptomatic. Students who have moderate to severe illness must follow-up with their pediatrician or PCP once cleared from isolation to obtain clearance to return to sports. All student athletes returning to sports after COVID illness must undergo a return to play protocol with the Athletic trainer.

**At-Home COVID Tests:** All positive at-home COVID testing will need to be confirmed by a test obtained by a healthcare provider. At-home testing will not be accepted for any student or staff with symptoms or to end quarantine prior to 14 days; these tests must be performed by trained medical professionals.