

ST. MARTIN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD COVID-19 PROTOCOL

General Information:

***Close/Direct contact is defined as any person within 6 feet of positive case for a cumulative 15 minutes, regardless of mask wearing, or having direct contact(touching, hugging, kissing, sharing drinking/eating utensils, blocking, defending, tackling); or if an infected person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on another person. Please note: use of face coverings and plastic dividers are not considered in determining close contacts. Contacts of contacts do not need to quarantine.**

*The Office of Public Health/LDH Reporting will be done by Adrienne Huval when a positive COVID test of a student is reported. Mr. Anthony Polotzola will handle all staff COVID cases.

*Health Center will keep track of students who fit COVID criteria. Schools may report this to Adrienne Huval at adrienne_huval@saintmartinschools.org.

PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS/STAFF ON CAMPUS:

- For COVID cases, identification of close contacts(school and bus contacts) will need to be done by schools.
- Each Principal will designate at least 2 individuals on campus to handle cases/contact tracing. This will include contacting transportation/bus driver for chart. Once bus contacts have been identified, these individuals must inform schools with students who need to quarantine.
- Adrienne Huval will be copied on all emails regarding students. Anthony Polotzola will be copied on all emails regarding staff.

1. Steps to identify COVID-19 infections and report to A. Huval or A. Polotzola:

- Identify a person with COVID-19 infection. A person with COVID-19 infection that would require reporting to LDH and conducting contact tracing is defined as:
 - Laboratory-Confirmed Case: someone who receives a positive COVID-19 viral test result, including molecular/PCR or antigen tests. Antibody tests indicate past exposure and should not be used to diagnose current infection or to initiate contact tracing. OR
 - Suspect Case: someone who is experiencing any COVID-like symptoms including:
 - Fever or chills, rigors, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. AND
 - No alternative more likely diagnosis
 - If a suspect case subsequently tests negative by molecular/PCR test, they can return to school when they are symptom-free for 24 hours and any close contacts that have been quarantined may return to school.
- Isolate and send the person home immediately.** They should not return to school until the following “end of self-isolation criteria” are met:
 - For a person with ANY symptom(s):
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications AND
 - Other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.
 - For a person who remained asymptomatic (i.e., never had any symptoms):

At least 10 days have passed since positive test collection date.

2. **Steps to identify and notify close contacts of persons identified as having COVID-19 infection**

For suspect cases only, quarantining of close contacts, including siblings of the case, may be delayed up to 48 hours after meeting clinical criteria to allow for the return of molecular/PCR test results or an alternative more likely diagnosis to be made by a physician.

If a molecular/PCR test result or alternative more likely diagnosis is not available within 48 hours of meeting being identified as a suspect case, close contacts should be quarantined as described below.

If a molecular/PCR test results negative or an alternative more likely diagnosis is made by a physician, close contacts do not need to be quarantined. The symptomatic person should not return to school until they are symptom-free for 24 hours.

Determine who has been in close contact with suspect and confirmed COVID-19 cases in school during their infectious period.

Close contact is defined as

being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hr period OR

having direct contact with an infected person, including touching, hugging, kissing, or sharing eating or drinking utensils; or if an infected person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on another person

Close contacts should be encouraged to seek testing immediately, including those close contacts meeting the above exception, regardless of vaccination status. If negative, they should be tested again between 5-7 days post-exposure.

The infectious period includes the 48 hours before the day the person became sick (or the 48 hours before specimen collection if asymptomatic) until the person was isolated.

Use of face shields or plastic dividers are not considered in determining close contacts.

Identify close contacts that may have occurred during any time or place the person was at school during the infectious period, including in the classrooms, buses, during recess or lunch, and during extra-curricular activities

Notify close contacts of the need to quarantine.

Notify all close contacts of suspect and confirmed cases that they have been identified as having been exposed to someone who is or may be ill with COVID-19 and will need to quarantine.

Options to shorten the duration of quarantine if contacts remain asymptomatic include:

If no symptoms develop during quarantine AND they have a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than day 5 after their last exposure: they may quarantine for 7 days, returning day 8, from last contact with a COVID-19 case OR

If no symptoms develop during quarantine and no testing is done: they may quarantine for 10 days, returning day 11, from last contact with a COVID-19 case.

The day after exposure is always day 1 of quarantine.

Instances when quarantine exemptions may be safely implemented (under the following criteria quarantine is not necessary):

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) at the time of exposure and remain asymptomatic
- Individuals who previously tested positive with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and remain asymptomatic

****AT-HOME TESTS CANNOT BE USED TO SHORTEN QUARANTINE.**

Buses:

****A close contact will be any person within 3 feet for a cumulative 15 minutes.**

****Mandatory quarantines for students defined as a “close contact” are no longer required for close contacts on the bus due to mandatory masking on buses. In lieu of mandatory quarantine, the parent shall be notified of the exposure and given the option to quarantine their child or allow their child to remain in school. The parent shall also be given the opportunity for a no-cost COVID screening for their child (LDH testing program). Should the student test positive or develop symptoms of the virus, the student should isolate until they have recovered and are determined to no longer be infectious (see guidance above). This will apply to sports as well.**

Bus Contact Tracing-When contact tracing a bus, please use templates provided. **Bus charts can be obtained by calling the transportation office at 909-2990 or emailing Tina Pierre, Wanda Johnson, and Denise Angelle.**

****Athletes may utilize the shortened quarantine option to return to school.**

Ensure close contacts remain out of school until the end of their quarantine period:

- Close contacts should not return to school until they have met end of quarantine criteria.
- If a close contact in quarantine becomes symptomatic and tests positive, they would be considered a case as of the day their symptoms began and would need to follow “end of self-isolation criteria” to return to school.
- If a close contact in quarantine becomes symptomatic but is not tested, they would be considered a case as of the day their symptoms began and would need to follow “end of self-isolation criteria” to return to school or 14-day quarantine, whichever is longer.
- If a close contact in quarantine tests positive but does not develop symptoms, they would be considered a case as of the day their test was collected and would need to follow “end of self-isolation criteria” to return to school.

Special note about home contacts:

Close contacts in the home must ensure that the sick person has remained in isolation and no further contact has occurred. If this is confirmed by the parent, they may utilize the shortened quarantine. If contact occurs, the contact must restart their quarantine from that point. If isolation for the sick individual cannot occur, the student cannot start their quarantine until the sick person has completed their isolation.

3. Steps to conduct cleaning and disinfection according to CDC guidance

- Close off areas used by the persons with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Wear a mask and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the person(s) with COVID-19, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces
 - Surfaces should be cleaned using soap (or a detergent) and water prior to disinfection.
 - For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19. Check EPA's list of disinfection products.
 - See full CDC guidance: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility

JPAMS Codes

•If a student is quarantined for a positive Covid-19 case, the siblings must quarantine and they should be coded as medical quarantine.

•66 - medical quarantine, then 3079 – Other (for close contact or sibling of positive student)

•66 – medical quarantine, then U071 – for positive Covid – 19 case

The siblings of a close contact should not be coded as medical quarantine.

•If the parent chooses to keep them at home, they should be coded as parent request (code 33 U Received contact from parent)

On-Campus Testing Options:

Testing will be offered at all 3 SBHCs and schools for student suspect cases. If the SBHC cannot see the student within the 48 hours timeframe, a school nurse or LPN may test the student, provided they have parental consent. The SBHC bus driver may pick up the sample, or a school staff member may deliver it to the SBHC if no docking station is present on campus. Please note that the sample is only good for 2 hours. A protocol has been given to all nurses regarding the process.

****Masks will be reinstated on a campus that has 10% or more of their student body out due to COVID or quarantines.**