



# EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EMPOWERING LEARNERS AS GLOBAL THINKERS AND PRODUCERS

September 22, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community-at-large,

I am taking this moment to update you on the District protocols related to Covid-19.

First, parents are reminded if you wish your child to be free of masks/face coverings, **you must turn in the exception form no later than Friday, September 24, 2021.** [A point of clarification on the form. The “adverse situation” only applies to the Covid-19 illness in the event that your child gets Covid-19 at school or brings Covid-19 home to a family member from the school setting. It does not create any other form of liability for you.] Beginning Monday, September 27, 2021, the District will begin closely monitoring all learners for masks/face coverings and matching those without masks/face coverings to the exception forms. Learners who do not have a signed exception form on file and do not wear masks/face coverings, will be transitioned over to our ELANCOline Virtual Academy.

Second, the School District will be strictly enforcing the return to school policy of the Health and Safety plan. Too many families are sending sick children to school which has amplified the high caseload that we currently see throughout the District. From this point forward, the following protocol is in place:

**Individuals who test positive** for COVID-19 will need to isolate at home for 10 days from the date of symptom onset or if asymptomatic 10 days from the test date. Individuals may return to the school building and/or extracurricular activities when the following are met:

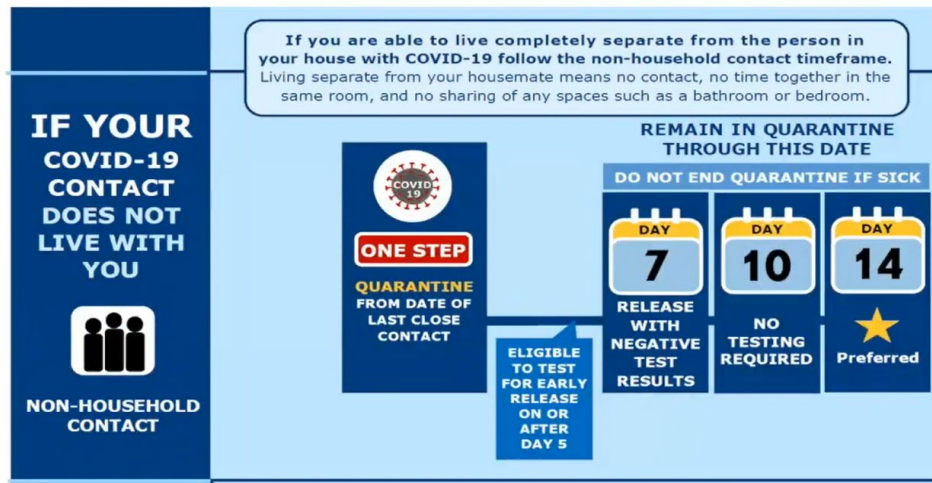
- have completed their 10 days of isolation and
- they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and
- their symptoms have improved.

**Close contacts:**

Parents are requested to contact their primary care physician (PCP) for guidance. Parents who do not contact their PCP or those who do not have a PCP will follow the Department of Health’s exclusion protocol which is as follows:

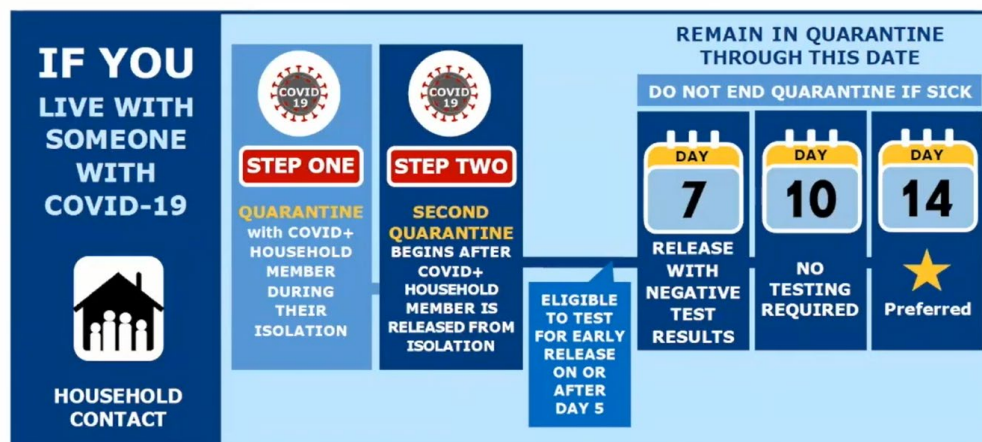
## Non-Household Contacts

- Quarantine for Non-Household Contact
  - Please note that exposure date is Day 0



## Household Contacts

- Please note that the most recent exposure date (end of case's infectious period) is Day 0. Household contact exclusions are 17-24 days.
  - Quarantine for Household Contact
    - Please note that most recent exposure date (end of case's infectious period) is Day 0. Household contact quarantines are 17-24 days.



## Fully Vaccinated Close Contacts:

Individuals who are fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic do not need to be excluded. It is recommended to monitor for symptoms and to wear a mask for 10-14 days while inside. Documentation of vaccination must be provided to the school nurse.

Individuals who are fully vaccinated and are symptomatic need to contact their PCP and follow their guidelines. Parents who do not contact their PCP or those who do not have a PCP will follow the Department of Health's close contact exclusion protocol listed above. Testing on day 2-5 after exposure is recommended.

### **Symptomatic Persons**

As listed in the Health and Safety Plan, learners and staff will be sent home if they present with severe symptoms, as assessed by the nurse in the school health room, that are closely associated with COVID. Severe symptoms include initial cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste and/or smell.

Finally, I wish to inform you of our employee shortages that we currently have and continue to anticipate throughout the coming school year. Unfortunately, some of you have already experienced the challenges with our transportation fleet being short drivers, resulting in drivers having to make multiple runs and therefore creating late arrivals for either pick-up in the morning or drop-off in the evening. Despite efforts to hire additional drivers and substitute drivers, we do not have them. Additionally, we continue to be short nearly a dozen paraprofessionals through our STS partners and we expect as Covid-19 illnesses increase, more and more teachers will be absent from classroom spaces. This will result in combining of classes from time to time and/or worse case scenario moving part of the District or the entire District to periodic remote learning. We are doing our best to manage our human resource shortage as best we can with an eye on serving our learners first, but the shortage is serious and there is no end in sight. We will do our best to communicate to you when a shortage affects you directly. If anyone is interested in assisting the School District as an employee, you will find more information about vacancies and application procedures on the District website under Employment. [www.elanco.org/employment/](http://www.elanco.org/employment/)

Sincerely,



Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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