

MSD COVID-19 GUIDELINES *(Updated 1/20/22)*

Applicable to staff and students, 5 years and older.

For students younger than 5 years old, please contact the office for specific guidance.

Student or Staff exhibits one or more symptoms that could be COVID-19 without known exposure

(See MSD COVID-19 Handbook for list of symptoms)

Student or Staff must remain at home and either

- Take a molecular PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID test; OR
- Visit a health care provider and receive clearance to return to school; OR
- Choose not to take a PCR COVID test or visit a health care provider

If the PCR Test result is **negative** OR the student or staff has a note from a health care provider with clearance to return, the student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 24 hours since they had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Symptoms have improved significantly

If the PCR Test result is **positive** the student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 5 days* after the first day of symptoms; AND
- It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 have improved significantly
- A negative test is not required for return
- The student or staff must continue to mask both on and off campus for 10 days since the onset of symptoms

If the student or staff elects not to take a PCR COVID test or visit a health care provider, they are presumed to be positive for COVID-19. The student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 5 days* after the first day of symptoms; AND
- It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Symptoms have improved significantly
- The student or staff must continue to mask both on and off campus for 10 days since the onset of symptoms

*For individuals exposed, day of exposure is considered day zero (0). For cases, day of symptom onset is day zero (0) or for individuals without symptoms, day of specimen collection is considered day zero (0).

Known Exposure in a mask-required school setting

(On MSD's Campus)

Student or staff has been in close contact (see attached definition) with someone with COVID-19 in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time

Is the student or staff experiencing one or more symptoms that could be COVID-19?
(See MSD COVID-19 Handbook for list of symptoms)

YES

NO

Student or staff must remain at home and either:

- Take a molecular PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID test OR
- Choose not to take a PCR COVID test

If the PCR Test result is **negative** OR the student or staff has a note from a health care provider with clearance to return, the student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 24 hours since they had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Symptoms have improved significantly

If the PCR Test result is **positive** OR the student or staff chooses not to take a PCR test, they may return to school when:

- It has been at least 5 days* after the first day of symptoms; AND
- It has been at least 24 hours since the student or staff had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 have improved significantly
- A negative test is not required
- The student or staff must continue to mask both on and off campus for 10 days since the onset of symptoms

Student or staff may return to school

If student or staff develops symptoms

Student or staff who are asymptomatic must continue to mask both on and off campus and practice physical distancing

*For individuals exposed, day of exposure is considered day zero (0). For cases, day of symptom onset is day zero (0) or for individuals without symptoms, day of specimen collection is considered day zero (0).

Known Exposure in a mask-optional setting**

(**Any location outside of MSD's Campus)

Student or staff has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in which either or both individuals were not wearing a mask

Is the student or staff experiencing one or more symptoms that could be COVID-19?
(See MSD COVID-19 Handbook for list of symptoms)

YES

NO

Student or staff must remain at home and either:

- Take a molecular PCR (polymerase chain reaction) COVID test
- OR
- Choose not to take a PCR COVID test

Has the individual with COVID-19 been isolated away from the student or staff since exposure?

YES (casual exposure; the duration of exposure has ended)

NO (continued exposure within the household)

If the PCR Test result is **negative** OR the student or staff has a note from a health care provider with clearance to return, the student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 24 hours since they had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Symptoms have improved significantly

If the PCR Test result is **positive** OR the student or staff chooses not to take a PCR test, they may return to school when:

- It has been at least 5 days* after the first day of symptoms; AND
- It has been at least 24 hours since the student or staff had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); AND
- Symptoms have improved significantly
- A negative test is not required
- The student or staff must continue to mask both on and off campus for 10 days since the onset of symptoms

The **fully vaccinated** student or staff may return to school if:

- The student or staff has remained asymptomatic since exposure

The **not fully vaccinated** student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 5 days* since the last date of close contact with the individual with COVID-19

The student or staff must continue to mask both on and off campus for 10 days since the positive individual's onset of symptoms

The student or staff may return to school when:

- It has been at least 5 days* since the individual with COVID-19 first developed symptoms or received a positive COVID-19 test; AND
- The student or staff has been home for an additional 5 days and remained asymptomatic
- The student or staff must continue to mask both on and off campus for 10 days since the positive individual's onset of symptoms

If the student or staff develops symptoms at any time after exposure

*For individuals exposed, day of exposure is considered day zero (0). For cases, day of symptom onset is day zero (0) or for individuals without symptoms, day of specimen collection is considered day zero (0).

Definition of Close Contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to test specimen collection date) until the time the individual is isolated.

Definition of Fully Vaccinated: A fully vaccinated person is someone who is two weeks out from the recommended number of doses for the particular type of vaccine they received, taking into account any boosters that are recommended for particular demographic groups.

Please notify our office if a student or staff has been exposed and answer the following questions:

- What was the date of exposure?
- Was the exposure in a masked setting? Was the individual with COVID-19 wearing a mask? Was the student or staff who was exposed wearing a mask?
- Was the exposure minimal or on-going? Does the individual with COVID-19 live in the same household or have continued contact with the student or staff?
- Is the student or staff experiencing symptoms? If so, what was the date of symptom onset?

There are nuances with each case so we will review each situation on a case by case basis.

Testing

Testing is done based on CDC recommendations for those with symptoms, those who do not have symptoms but came in close contact with someone who has tested positive, and those who are in a CDC-defined high-risk group. MSD recommends that employees and families utilize their primary care physician (PCP) to seek medical care. CDC recommends that all individuals take preventative measures including masking and maintaining physical distancing to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For more information, call the NCDHHS hotline at 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162 (available 24/7), or the Durham County COVID-19 Hotline at 919-560-9217 (available 8:30 a.m.— 5 p.m., Monday through Friday)

MSD will coordinate with the Durham County Department of Public Health to determine when and how to inform families, students, faculty and staff as appropriate and maintain privacy and confidentiality as required by law. MSD may also decide to issue notifications above and beyond what public health notification guidelines call for. Suspected and confirmed cases will be reported to the MSD COVID-19 response team, including but not limited to the Administrative Team.