



Montgomery County Crisis Mitigation: COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Plan for Education Institutions

In accordance with KDHE and CDC guidelines, Montgomery County Health Department has developed the following quarantine exemption policy for the 2021-2022 school year. Our primary objective is to keep students and staff safe and healthy while maintaining in-person learning.

A quarantine exemption for a student or staff member with a close contact exposure may be granted if the following conditions are met:

1. The exposed student or staff member is asymptomatic, and
2. The student or staff member is fully vaccinated. "Fully vaccinated" is defined as two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (example: Pfizer, Moderna) or two weeks after receiving a single dose of a single-dose vaccine (example: Johnson and Johnson); or
3. The close contact occurs in school and the exposed person is wearing an approved mask appropriately for the entire duration of the close contact and is verified by a teacher present at the time of exposure.

This policy may be adopted with the following agreed upon principles:

1. It is highly recommended that anyone (whether vaccinated or masked) be tested for COVID-19 3 to 5 days after their close contact exposure.
2. A close contact is defined as an event where someone is within 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for 10 consecutive minutes.
3. Any student or staff with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis shall be excluded from school for the length of their isolation.

The risk of transmitting disease is reduced outdoors, if physical distancing is being maintained, masks and cloth face coverings are not generally recommended while outdoors.

The decision to adopt this quarantine exemption policy should be made with the understanding that quarantine is a fundamental strategy of decreasing the transmission of communicable diseases. Adopting this quarantine exemption policy will potentially put other community members, students and staff at higher risk for COVID-19 exposure and every effort should be made to encourage and/or require frequent testing of students and staff who have experienced close contacts with COVID-19 cases. Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by case basis by the school district and the Montgomery County Health Department.

Montgomery County Public School Districts are continuing practices that help stop the spread and transmission of the Covid-19 virus and its variants. Districts are unanimous in recommending the use of masks, but at this time it is not required, except on buses as this is a federal ordinance. The coalition is dedicated to being responsive to the changing nature of this situation and its primary goal is keeping our students safe and in schools.