

DEPARTMENT POLICY

V.I. Department of Education
COVID-19 Student Policy

January 21, 2022 (revised)

Office of the Commissioner



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



COVID-19 STUDENT POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy informs Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) Students, Parents and Guardians of the expectations in operations, as the Department responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABBREVIATIONS

VIDE: Virgin Islands Department of Education
VIDOH: Virgin Islands Department of Health
CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

POLICY

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) continues to follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in conjunction with Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH) officials, to reduce the further spread of the COVID-19 disease in our community. As students gradually return to in-person learning and begin to travel within and outside of the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands, we must remain abreast of the Travel Advisories and other guidelines set forth by the VIDOH. The safety of students, faculty and staff is paramount. It is our shared responsibility to keep all stakeholders safe and healthy.

ACCEPTABLE COVID-19 TESTS

COVID-19 tests accepted by the VIDE are:

- COVID-19 molecular (e.g., RT-PCR, viral or nucleic acid amplification) test from a nasal, throat or saliva swab sample OR
- COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test from a nasal or throat swab sample

****At-home tests are not accepted****

COVID-19 TESTING REQUIREMENT

The VIDE has transitioned back to in-person as its main mode of learning; therefore, all students must provide a negative COVID-19 test result to participate in in-person learning. Pursuant to VIDOH guidelines, a mandatory testing program has been implemented at VIDE. Based upon the mandatory program, COVID-19 tests are required to attend school in-person.

Excused COVID-19 Absence for students who have TESTED POSITIVE.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be marked excused within PowerSchool for their quarantine period.

- The Positive test result is required to be sent ONLY to the student's teacher and/or school principal
- A doctor's note is not required



- Following ten (10) days of quarantine, the student may return to in-person learning. **If a student does not return to in-person learning and documentation is not provided by the end of the student's quarantine period, the student will be marked as unexcused.**

Excused COVID-19 Absence for students who have been EXPOSED to COVID-19

Students who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be marked excused within PowerSchool for the quarantine period. **If an acceptable COVID-19 test result is not provided by the end of the student's quarantine period, the student will be marked as unexcused.**

When a student has been exposed to COVID-19, the VIDE will handle each situation on a case-by-case basis.

- **ASSOCIATED WITH VIDE:** If a student has been **identified as a close contact of a COVID-19-positive VIDE student or employee**, the VIDE will ask the exposed student to self-quarantine until the student tests with VIDOH or a private provider. A letter designating exposure will be provided to the student's parent or legal guardian by the school principal or designee.
- **NOT ASSOCIATED WITH VIDE:** If a student has been **identified as a close contact of a person who is COVID-19-positive but not associated with the VIDE**, the exposed student will be required to self-quarantine, notify the teacher and/or principal, and schedule an appointment at www.covid19.usvi.care/testing or at a private provider. A letter designating exposure will be provided to the student's parent or legal guardian by the school principal or designee.

PLEASE NOTE: Testing with VIDOH is free of charge. If the student's parent or legal guardian chooses to use a private provider for testing, they may do so at their own expense. VIDE will advise the earliest date the student may test, based on their vaccination status.

Vaccinated:

- If a student is fully vaccinated and has been exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive and **DOES NOT live** with the COVID-19 positive person, the student may return to in-person learning after quarantining for five (5) days, if no symptoms have developed.
- If a student is fully vaccinated, has been exposed, and develops symptoms within the five-(5) day quarantine period, the student must schedule a COVID-19 test with VIDOH or a private provider.
- If a student is fully vaccinated and has been exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive and **DOES live** with the COVID-19 positive person, the student may return to in-person learning after quarantining for ten (10) days and testing for COVID-19 by VIDOH or a private provider.



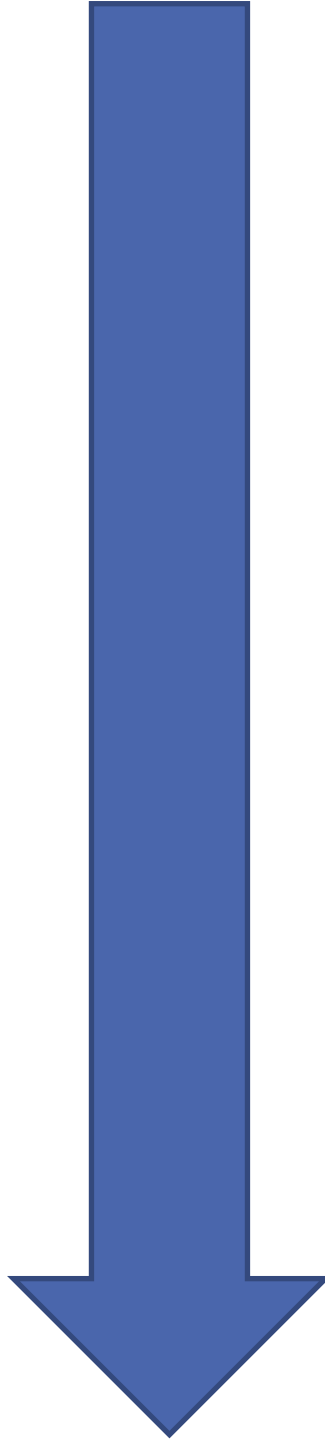
Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated:

- If a student is partially vaccinated or unvaccinated and has been exposed to someone who is COVID-19-positive and DOES NOT live with the COVID-19-positive person, the student is required to quarantine for seven (7) days and undergo COVID-19 testing on day seven (7).
- If a student is partially vaccinated or unvaccinated and has been exposed to someone who is COVID-19-positive and DOES live with the COVID-19-positive person, the student is required to quarantine for ten (10) days and undergo COVID-19 testing on day ten (10).

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian, at all times, to ensure there is communication with the student's teacher and/or principal on the student's status.



WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT SCHOOL? (See Logic Model Below)





Student shows symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19.*

Teacher/staff alerts school administration and/or school nurse. Teacher/staff member is required to maintain confidentiality throughout the process.

Student is escorted to isolation room and is properly supervised. The parent/guardian is contacted immediately. Arrangements are made for the student to be picked up.

NOTE: If multiple ill students must be placed in the same isolation room, ensure masks are used, and remain at least 6 feet apart.

Parent/guardian picks up student and seeks medical attention. Student is to remain quarantined until medical clearance is provided to return to school.

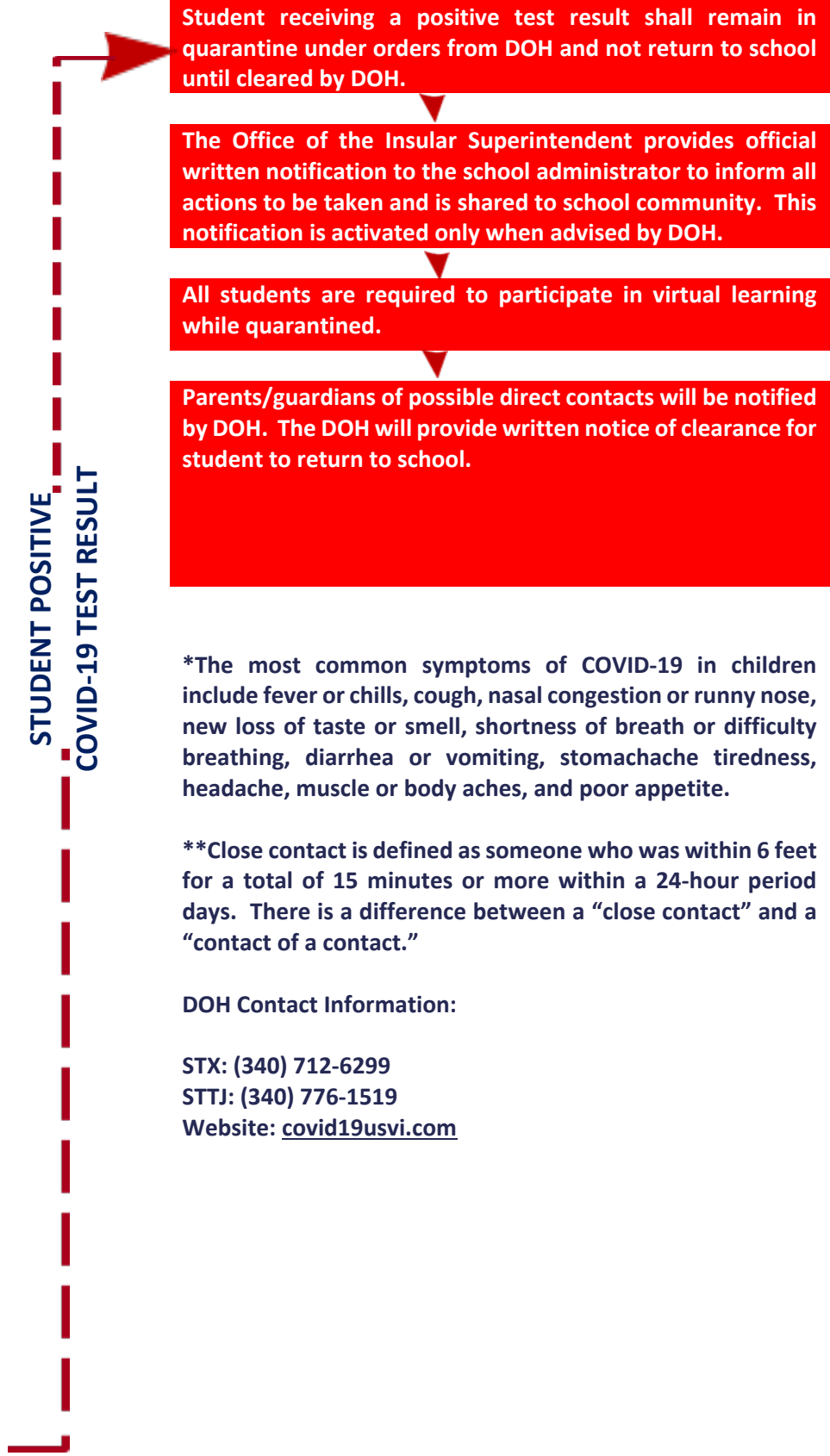
School administrator immediately creates a list of close contacts of the ill student and informs the Office of the Insular Superintendent.**

The school administrator is to ensure confidentiality of the identity of the student.

Custodians are to clean and disinfect the areas that the ill student occupied and use PPEs (including any protection needed for the cleaning and disinfection products) to reduce risk of possible infection.

After the incubation period of 4 days, the student must retest and produce a negative result to return to school. The negative result is provided to the school administrator.

IF A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE...





STUDENT TRAVEL

The following guidance and expectations outlined by the Government of the U. S. Virgin Islands and VIDOH are to be followed by public school students traveling during the COVID-19 era. For the most current travel information, visit <https://doh.vi.gov/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/travelers>.

In-Territory Travel:

No test is required.

Out-of-Territory Travel:

Every U.S. Virgin Islander, age five or older, leaving from and returning to the Territory, regardless of length of time, must take a COVID-19 test while away and receive a negative PCR or antigen test result within three (3) days of return.

All travelers are required to use the USVI Travel Screening Portal AND to submit a negative COVID-19 test result prior to return travel to the USVI COVID-19 Traveler Screening Tool (usvitraportal.com) Travelers should produce their original test result and travel certification received from the Portal upon arrival in the Territory.

Post Travel:

Travel for Vaccinated Students:

- If a student is fully vaccinated, the student may return to in-person learning immediately upon return to the Territory, pursuant to the guidelines of VIDOH.

Travel for Not Fully Vaccinated Students:

- If a student is not fully vaccinated, the student must quarantine for three (3) days and test on the fourth (4th) day, and provide their teacher and/or principal with a negative test to return to in-person learning.

Earlier protocol regarding testing and coverage applies.

- Example: Travel back to the territory on Saturday, January 1. Student can test Wednesday, January 5.

COVID-19 tests taken before departing the Territory OR results received outside the five-day window **do not meet** the requirements. Travelers are encouraged to plan testing dates to receive their results within the five-day window prior to travel back to the USVI to avoid unexpected travel delays due to refusal of airline boarding.

Students are required to complete all assignments issued by their classroom teacher(s) during the self-quarantine period.



VERSION CONTROL

Modification Date	Modification Reason	Modification Approved By
04/19/2021	<i>Updates include revision to testing upon return, per VIDOH</i>	<i>Commissioner Berry-Benjamin</i>
01/21/2022	<i>Updates to COVID-19 testing requirements and travel guidelines, and included steps for excused absences.</i>	<i>Commissioner Berry-Benjamin</i>