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K-12 Contact Tracing Guidance from the Wyoming Department of Health

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The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) recommends that Wyoming K-12 Schools follow the contact tracing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting. Contact tracing identifies individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 so they can be excluded from school during the period when they may become infectious to others. This guidance document summarizes the CDC recommendations and has been updated to reflect shortened isolation and quarantine recommendations. These guidelines are subject to change as additional developments occur throughout the pandemic. The complete CDC recommendations for COVID-19 prevention in schools can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>.

WDH has provided template directive letters that School Districts can use to notify parents that their children have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 as well as when those students can return to school.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19

Staff or students who have tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, need to remain home from school until they meet all of the following criteria:

- The individual has not had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours
- Other symptoms are improving
- It has been at least 5 days since symptoms first started.

If the individual did not have symptoms, he or she should stay home from school until 5 days have passed since the positive test was collected.

Individuals with a positive test should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after returning to school other than when eating, drinking, sleeping, or participating in artistic or athletic activities that cannot be done while wearing a mask. When not wearing a mask, distancing of six feet should be maintained to the extent possible.

To calculate the length of time an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home from school, add 5 days to the date that symptoms started (or the date the positive test was collected if

there are no symptoms). For example, if symptoms started on October 1, the individual must stay home through October 6 and can return to school on October 7 if he or she meets the criteria above. Masking should continue through day 10 (October 11).

Close Contacts of Infectious Individuals

Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 are infectious beginning 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms and until they meet the criteria to return to school. If an individual does not have symptoms, they are infectious beginning 48 hours prior to the test collection.

An individual is considered a close contact if they were within 6 feet of the infectious individual for 15 minutes or more during the course of a 24-hour period.

There are several circumstances in which an individual with an exposure to an infectious individual **does not** need to stay home from school. These individuals should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure other than when eating, drinking, sleeping, or participating in artistic or athletic activities that cannot be done while wearing a mask. When not wearing a mask, distancing of six feet should be maintained to the extent possible. They should also be tested on day 5 after the exposure, if possible, with the exception of persons who have tested positive within the past 90 days who should not be tested.

- Both the infectious individual and the person exposed were wearing masks at the time of exposure.
- The person exposed has completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and has gotten a booster dose if eligible
 - Individuals who are eligible for booster doses are those 18 years of age and older who completed a primary series of Pfizer or Moderna at least 6 months ago or a primary series of Janssen at least two months ago. Individuals in this category who have received a booster dose do not need to stay home from school. Individuals in this category who have not received a booster dose do need to stay home from school.
 - Individuals 18 years of age and older who have completed a primary series of Pfizer or Moderna within the prior 6 months or a primary series of Janssen within the prior two months do not need to stay home from school
 - Individuals who are less than 18 years of age and have completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine do not need to stay home from school
 - Unvaccinated individuals or individuals who did not complete a full primary series need to stay home from school
- The person exposed tested positive for COVID-19 using a molecular or antigen test performed by a provider or laboratory during the three months prior to exposure.

All other individuals identified as close contacts should stay home from school until the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others is reduced. Close contacts should stay home from school for 5 days after the exposure. After returning to school, they should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days other than when eating, drinking, sleeping, or participating in artistic or athletic activities that cannot be done while wearing a mask. When not wearing a

mask, distancing of six feet should be maintained to the extent possible. Close contacts should test on day 5 after the exposure if possible.

WDH recommends a test to stay program as an alternative to staying home from school. Please see the test to stay guidance on this page for further information:

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-orders-and-guidance/>

To calculate the length of time an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home from school, add 5 days to the date of the exposure. For example, if the exposure occurred on October 1, the individual must stay home through October 6 and can return to school on October 7. Testing is recommended on day 5 (October 6). Masking is recommended through day 10 (October 11).

Any close contacts who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 should follow the recommendations for individuals who test positive above.

There are certain circumstances in which it can be difficult to determine precisely whether there are exposures within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes, such as during athletic competitions. Local public health offices and WDH are available to consult in such situations as necessary. WDH may recommend symptom monitoring rather than exclusion from school in such situations. In general, entire classrooms or teams do not need to stay home unless it is likely that the infectious person had close contact with the entire classroom or team.

Additional Resources

Additional guidance documents and contact information can be found here:

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-orders-and-guidance/>