

MEMORANDUM

TO: DuPage County Public and Private School Partners

FROM: Karen Ayala, MPH, Executive Director
Rashmi Chugh, MD, MPH, Medical Officer

DATE: September 3, 2021

RE: **COVID-19 Quarantine Process Overview for Schools**

When COVID-19 cases are identified in children who attend school or employees/volunteers who work in a school in DuPage County, **any individual who meets the definition of a [close contact](#) must quarantine for the appropriate period of time following their exposure.** The quarantine options currently available in DuPage County are outlined [here](#). In Illinois, certified local health departments have legal authority for local administration and enforcement of orders for isolation of cases and quarantine of close contacts. These authorities are outlined in the Illinois Control of Communicable Diseases Code ([77 Ill. Adm. Code 690](#)). The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) follows the process to administer and enforce a quarantine order that is outlined in this Code.

If DCHD learns of noncompliance in a COVID-19 close contact who already received instruction, education, and resources for their quarantine recommendation, DCHD will first attempt to gain voluntary compliance with a quarantine order but may order an immediate quarantine and seek a court order for quarantine when necessary. Most individuals choose to voluntarily comply with quarantine requirements and no further action is necessary.

In order to provide rapid notification to parents of affected children, when schools learn of close contacts, school staff will notify the parents of these students to ensure they are aware of the close contact with a COVID-19 case. They will also inform them that they must stay home (except to receive medical care) and therefore may not attend school or other activities until they successfully complete their quarantine period.

When schools report these close contacts to the DuPage County Health Department, the following steps take place:

- DCHD will follow up with each individual or their parent/legal representative within two business days of notification by the school.
 - Before we notify those individuals, we first work to confirm that we have record of a confirmed COVID-19 case to which the close contacts were exposed. This reporting is required of healthcare providers who conduct COVID-19 testing, and this information may take additional time to be entered.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



WEAR
A MASK



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH
YOUR HANDS



GET
VACCINATED

- DCHD’s verification of the case is a critical step to ensure individuals who may be subject to a quarantine order were actually exposed to a case of COVID-19.
- Once this information is confirmed, our Case Investigation and Contact Tracing teams contact each of the reported close contacts to communicate that they were exposed to a COVID-19 case and gather additional information.
 - For an unvaccinated close contact, the [recommendation](#) is to be tested immediately after exposure, and if negative, test again 5-7 days after their last exposure, monitor their symptoms, and to quarantine for the appropriate period of time based on their situation and as outlined in the options above.
 - For a fully vaccinated close contact, the [recommendation](#) is to be tested 3-5 days after their last exposure, monitor for symptoms, and wear a well-fitted mask consistently and correctly indoors.

Quarantine in general means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic from others who have not been so exposed to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease. Individuals who had close contact with a COVID-19 case may become infectious before they feel sick or have symptoms. These close contacts are subject to a quarantine order that restricts them from entering public settings including, but not limited to: attending school or other places, extracurricular activities including sports, after-school care, etc. Individuals who look, or feel healthy, may be subject to a quarantine order based on their close contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19. If a close contact becomes ill, develops symptoms, or tests positive for COVID-19, they are required to isolate until the appropriate time as determined by DCHD.

If you or your school staff has questions about this process or would like to discuss further, please contact the DCHD COVID-19 Education Team at 630-221-7928 or COVID19Education@dupagehealth.org.

We appreciate your partnership to keep students, staff, and families safe and healthy and to keep schools safe, open, and operational.

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



WEAR
A MASK



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH
YOUR HANDS



GET
VACCINATED