

## Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ's

### COVID-19 Health and Safety

**1. Will there be any regular testing of COVID-19 for staff?**

A. At this time there is no plan from the Department of Health for staff to have regular testing provided.

**2. If a child is experiencing symptoms, will there be immediate testing available at the school?**

A. Testing will not be performed at school. Parents will be notified to pick up their ill student and the symptoms are exhibiting. Parents will be encouraged to speak with their medical provider for next recommended steps and given guidelines from the health office for a safe return to school when healthy.

**3. What happens if a teacher and/or student tests positive for COVID-19?**

A. We will follow the guidelines set forth by the state and county health departments. Keep in mind every instance of exposure is different and will be handled on a case by case basis. Decisions and/or actions for potential closure(s) will be made in conjunction with the county and state health departments, school administration, district administration, and then communicated to parents and staff accordingly.

**4. Do the students in the classroom who were exposed go into isolation and not return to school?**

A. Not necessarily. Every instance of exposure is different and will be handled on a case by case basis in accordance with the county and state guidelines and exposure risk.

**5. What happens if a student and/or teacher is ill but does not get tested?**

A. If someone is ill, and either tests negative (with symptoms) or does not get tested, we will follow state and county exclusion and quarantine guidelines which as of today are : Stay home and away from others until **3 days (72 hours)** have passed since your **fever has gone away** without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** your **respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and loss of taste/smell) have improved.**

**6. What is the procedure for a student and/or teacher that has tested positive to be able to return to school?**

A. The guidelines from state and county health departments as of today are: Remain in home isolation until **10 days** have passed since your **symptoms first started AND** At least **3 days (72 hours)** have passed since your **fever has gone away** without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** your **respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and loss of taste/smell) have improved.** Siblings and household members must also stay home for 14 days.

- 7. What is the procedure for a person that has been "exposed" to be able to return to school?**
- A. This can vary depending on the level and circumstances surrounding the exposure. The state and county health departments will determine exposure guidelines when school resumes. Example: A person who has had close contact (not socially distanced) with a person who was symptomatic and tests positive will need to quarantine for 14 days. If a person tests positive but was asymptomatic, properly social distanced with a mask, others may not have to quarantine. Each case is different and will be vetted in accordance with the guidelines from the state and county health departments.
- 8. What is the notification situation for how quickly we are informed of potential exposure at school?**
- A. The notification comes from the county health department. Once we receive the notification from the county, we have a communication flow chart to ensure swift notification of all the key stakeholders. This will assist us in being able to immediately identify the potential risk level of the person(s), classroom(s) and/or site(s) and determine the course of action based on the facts so as to notify parents and staff of next steps.
- 9. What if a student gets re-infected?**
- A. Because we do not know how immunity works for COVID-19 or if someone can be re-infected, all symptoms will be treated the same regarding exclusion guidelines even if someone has tested positive in the past.
- 10. Will temperatures need to be fever free for 72 hours as opposed to the current policy of 24 hours?**
- A. Yes. A student or staff member will need to be fever free without fever reducing medication for 72 hours.
- 11. What is the protocol should a student or staff's family member test positive for COVID-19?**
- A. The guidelines from state and county health departments as of today are: If you live with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, **separate yourself from the ill person (people) in the home. Stay at home for 14 days after your last contact with the person with COVID-19**, except to get essential medical care, prescriptions, and food. **Do not go to work (unless you work in an essential service AND do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19), school, or public areas (e.g., shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums, etc.).** Do not use public transportation, including rideshares and taxis. Do not go on long-distance travel. **If you work in an essential service AND do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19** and must go to work during the 14 days after your last contact with the person with COVID-19, **you must wear a cloth face mask** when you are within 6 feet of other people.

**12. What are the health criteria if a student is to return to school on a given day?**

- A. **Parents will be responsible for** Daily Health Screening – You are responsible for ensuring that your child is not exhibiting any of the following symptoms PRIOR to coming to school each day.
- Fever of 100.4 or greater
  - New onset or worsening cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any of the above symptoms?
  - Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

**13. What is the policy on notifying students/families of a COVID-19 exposure at a site?**

- A. We will follow the guidelines set forth by the state and county health departments. Keep in mind every instance of exposure is different and will be handled on a case by case basis. Decisions and/or actions for potential closure(s) will be made in conjunction with the county and state health departments, school administration, district administration, and then communicated accordingly.

These recommendations are current as of 7/1/2020. Recommendations are subject to change as the situation evolves. For more information, please visit [maricopa.gov/COVID19](https://maricopa.gov/COVID19).