

## Guidelines for COVID-19 in the Diocese of Fort Worth Catholic Schools, 9/9/21

1. Determine date the employee or student was last at work or school: contact tracing is looking at the 48 hours prior to symptom development or testing positive without symptoms.
2. If an employee/student or members of their household are waiting for COVID-19 test results, the entire household should stay home from school and away from others until test results showing negative are obtained.
3. Exposure can happen at home, work, or school or at other events people attend.
  - A. Family exposure – the sooner the person who is ill isolates themselves in the home the better – own room, bathroom and not going to shared spaces with family. Generally, family members will need to quarantine for 10 full days after last point of contact with the person who is positive for COVID-19.
  - B. CDC exposure is considered when:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
    - Less than 6 feet apart
    - Cumulative time together more than 15 minutes total in 24 hours
    - No Masks on
    - 48 hours between exposure and person testing positive/symptoms

**Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

4. Contact tracing is done in the classroom, offices, or any sports where exposure may have occurred, tracking the 48 hours prior to symptom development. The Diocese of Fort Worth schools are following the **10 full day** quarantine for COVID-19 exposures that occur. CDC guidance with quarantining has been discussed and approved by Bishop Olson and his team of advisors. Parents and school employees will be notified of newly reported cases by email communication. Those who will need to self-isolate, or quarantine will be notified by school administration.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID-19-Quarantine-vs-Isolation.pdf>

5. **Fully vaccinated people following an exposure:** Fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine if they (1) get tested 3-5 days following the date of their exposure, and (2) wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. Fully vaccinated people should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

6. Information needed:

- A. Name of child, faculty or staff who is COVID-19 Positive
- B. Birthdate and Grade of student or employee teaches/duties
- C. Address and phone number, parents' names
- D. Date symptoms started
- E. Date tested and name and location of testing site

7. Classroom Procedures

- Face masks are optional, but encouraged if the student and their families and school staff choose to wear face masks
- Try to maintain at least 3 feet separation with students and adults
- All desks facing same direction
- Water fountains turned off, can use water bottle refilling stations
- Good handwashing and hand sanitizing practiced along with good sneeze and cough etiquette practices
- Use prudence with sharing of student supplies

8. Athletic Procedures and PE Practices

- Face masks are optional but encouraged for indoor sports
- Avoid holding hands during prayer for sporting events
- Practice good handwashing, sneeze, and cough etiquette
- At least 3 feet social distancing, when possible, in athletics
- Sanitizing athletic equipment that is frequently used, hourly or more if possible
- Follow diocesan protocols for gatherings held outside of Mass