



What to expect: COVID-19 in Wyoming K-12 SCHOOLS

Parents and schools can expect the actions below if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.



Case Interview

When a positive result is reported, public health officials will contact the person with COVID-19, or the parent(s) if the infected person is under 18 years old, to complete an investigation and place the person with COVID-19 in isolation.



Isolation

Children or staff who are given an isolation order will be required to stay home until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started (or since the date the test was collected if asymptomatic), AND
- The infected person has been fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours, AND
- Symptoms have improved



Close Contacts

Public health officials will assess who is considered a close contact and needs to be quarantined. The school may be contacted to get seating arrangements or additional information. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more.

- When the case AND the contact were both wearing masks, quarantine is not necessary. The contact should self-monitor for symptoms for the two weeks following the exposure.
- When the case is wearing a mask but the contact is not, quarantine is required for the contact.
- When the case is not wearing a mask but the contact is, quarantine is required for the contact.
- When the case and the contact are not wearing masks, quarantine is required for the contact.

Self-monitor - no quarantine required



Quarantine required



Quarantine required



Quarantine required





Quarantine

Children or staff who have been given instructions to quarantine will be asked to stay home for up to 14 days after their last exposure to the infected person, monitor symptoms, and seek testing. CDC published three options for reducing the length of quarantine following an exposure to COVID-19. Options for shortening the quarantine period include:

1. Ending quarantine **after** 10 days if you have monitored your child daily and your child has not had **any** symptoms
2. Ending quarantine **after** 7 days if you have monitored your child daily and your child has not had **any** symptoms **AND** your child had a negative PCR test collected on day 5 or later. In no circumstance can quarantine be discontinued before 7 full days of quarantine have passed since exposure.
3. Ending quarantine if your child tested positive on a COVID-19 antibody test (IgG, IgM, total antibody) immediately following exposure. This options should be used for low risk situations only. Your child should avoid high risk situations including contact with people at high risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 such as older adults and people with certain underlying health conditions.

If you choose to use one of the options above to shorten the quarantine period for your child, you should continue to monitor your child for symptoms daily for the full 14 days. WDH recommends that your child continue to take measures to protect him/herself and others such as avoiding crowds, social distancing, correct and consistent mask use, and hand and cough hygiene for the full 14 days. **Please note:** Some schools may require the full 14 days of quarantine before returning to school. If your child tested positive for COVID-19 on a PCR or antigen test in the three months prior to exposure, your child does not need to quarantine.

Fully vaccinated contacts: If your child is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 AND it has been two weeks since the final vaccine dose, your child does not need to quarantine. WDH recommends the child wear a mask for 14 days following exposure or until the child receives a negative test result. Testing is recommended 3-5 days after exposure.



Return to School

Cases: Once the infected person has met the criteria for release from isolation, they can return to school. A release from isolation letter is not required.

Contacts: A quarantined child or staff member that has completed their quarantine period and has not developed symptoms or tested positive can return to school.

If your child gets sick:

- It is important to remember that COVID-19 is being spread in many communities, and COVID-19 exposure can happen outside of school. If your child develops symptoms, even if the symptoms are mild, he or she may have COVID-19. Your child should stay home except to get medical care. Do not send your child to school, and avoid public spaces, public activities, and group gatherings.
- Call your child's healthcare provider to discuss your child's symptoms and whether he or she needs to be tested.