

FAQ for Parents with School-Aged Children

What is a school-based exposure?

An exposure is defined as an individual who has close contact (less than 6 feet) for longer than 15 total minutes in a 24-hour period with a person with a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19.

Each school is responsible for determining who is considered a close contact in the school setting, or has been exposed to COVID-19. If a school cannot confirm that 6 feet of distancing was consistently maintained during the school day, then each person the case was in contact with will need to quarantine. This can include all members of a cohort, classroom, team, etc. No identifiable information about the person with COVID-19 will be released.

How long must my child quarantine?

A person is asked to quarantine when they have been exposed to COVID-19. Clackamas County Public Health's quarantine requirements align with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) recommendations. **A 14-day quarantine is required for all unvaccinated exposures in all school settings.** Only people who are fully-vaccinated will not have to quarantine. Fully-vaccinated individuals meet the following:

- 2 weeks or longer following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, OR
- 2 weeks or longer following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine

People who are fully-vaccinated and notified of an exposure should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days and then seek testing if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

The number one goal of COVID-19 in schools is prevention. In preventing outbreaks, we can keep schools open. We understand the importance of keeping schools open, and appreciate the ongoing partnership from our school communities.

Can my child test out of quarantine sooner than 14 days?

No. While we encourage those in quarantine to seek COVID-19 testing 5-7 days after exposure in order to more rapidly identify new cases, a negative test does not permit your child to return to school before their full 14-day quarantine period ends.

What if I get COVID-19, or my child does? How long is the quarantine period?

Individuals who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 14 days, starting the date after last exposure to the person with COVID-19. For many household close contacts, the 14-day quarantine period will begin the day after the ill individual's 10-day isolation period ends. This is due to the ongoing exposure of household members to COVID-19 through sharing kitchens, bathrooms, common living spaces, etc. This equals a total of a 24-day quarantine, and could be even longer if there are multiple cases in a household.

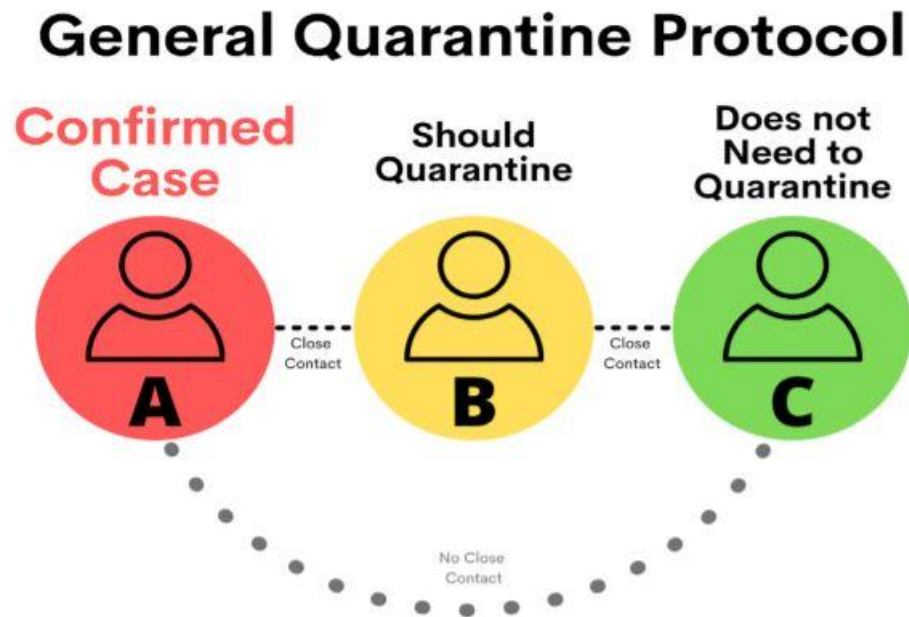
Why is it important to quarantine?

Quarantining when you are exposed to COVID-19 helps minimize the risk of spreading the disease to others, including those you live, work, and socialize with. Additionally, quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that may occur before a person knows they are sick or develop symptoms of COVID-19.

It's important to quarantine when you have been exposed to COVID-19, and it is also important to keep your child at home and have them quarantine if you or someone else in your household is ill with COVID-19. Children who continue to attend school while living with someone with COVID-19 risk spreading the disease to other students and staff, which could ultimately lead to quarantining entire class, team, or bus cohorts.

If my child has to quarantine due to an exposure, do I have to quarantine also?

If your child is in quarantine as a result of an exposure, you will not need to quarantine unless your child starts to experience symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. Refer to Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) general quarantine protocol infographic below:



If your child was in close contact with a COVID-19 case and starts to develop symptoms, they may be a presumptive case. In this instance, the child should be tested for COVID-19 and all household members should quarantine. A negative test does not mean you can stop your quarantine.

Once my child is determined as a close contact to a COVID-19 case, how long until they should expect a call from Clackamas County Public Health to discuss next steps?

Depending on the number of COVID-19 cases in the community, the timeline for when to expect a call from public health after being identified as a close contact may vary. It can take 1 to 3 days from when your child was identified as a close contact before they receive a call from Clackamas County Public

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Health. If case counts are high, you may not hear from public health. Therefore, it is important to look for and follow information and direction from your child's school regarding an exposure and quarantine.

Is my child eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine?

As of Thursday, May 13th, all Oregonians age 12 and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, Pfizer is the only vaccine authorized by the FDA for use by people under the age of 18. We encourage all who are eligible to make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment now. See below for useful vaccine resources:

- [Get Vaccinated Oregon](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Website](#)
- [How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#)
- [Clackamas County COVID-19 Vaccine Website](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Finder](#)

Additionally, OHA released a [FAQ about the COVID-19 vaccine for 12 to 17 year olds](#).

Do fully-vaccinated students and staff need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19?

Individuals who have been fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 (received both doses of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single-dose vaccine and are at least 14 days beyond completion of the vaccine series) are not required to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19. Fully-vaccinated individuals who have been in close contact with a COVID-19 case should still monitor themselves for symptoms for a full 14 days after exposure. If symptoms develop, they should isolate and seek testing.

The requirement to quarantine may be removed if proof of vaccination is provided. If proof of vaccination status is not provided or the individual does not wish to provide proof of vaccination, then the individual must quarantine.

Am I allowed to watch my child's school sport events?

Yes. Schools must follow the maximum capacity limits for the county's current risk level using the [risk level sector chart](#). Spectators should remain in their own designated area throughout the event.

Note that capacity limits do not apply to public outdoor areas. For all events, spectators must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance and wear a face covering at all times.

Are face coverings required for fully-vaccinated individuals in schools?

Yes, face coverings are required for all individuals through the end of this school year.

What can I do if my child's school is not adhering to public health measures, like enforcing face coverings or maintaining physical distancing?

If you believe a school is not in compliance with public health measures to limit COVID-19 transmission in schools, you can file a named or confidential complaint with OHSA at 1-833-604-0884 or online at <https://osha.oregon.gov/workers/Pages/index.aspx>.