

## **WCASD Procedures for Contact Tracing and Quarantining as per [Chester County Health Department Guidance](#)**

Contact tracing involves the identification and notification of close contacts confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in order to quarantine them during the contagious period. Contact tracing, when combined with quarantine strategies, is critical to help limit COVID-19 from spreading in schools, is used to break chains of transmission, and ultimately help prevent future surges of cases.

- Once we receive the date from which a student tests positive or was symptomatic with an exposure, we go back 48 hours to determine if the child was in school. If so, we begin our contact tracing process.
- Quarantining is necessary when contact tracing reveals that a person had been exposed to anyone within six feet of another person who is confirmed positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer, with or without a mask. We look at class schedules, bus schedules, cafeteria seating, and any other place the person may have been during that day.
- Parents of children impacted are contacted, and the children are then quarantined for the appropriate number of days.
- Students and staff who are in quarantine attend school remotely.
- Quarantine time is 7-10 calendar days:
  - Quarantine begins after the date of last exposure (Day 0) to a person with COVID-19. At no time can quarantine be discontinued before the end of Day 7 even if a negative COVID-19 test result is received prior to the end of Day 7.
  - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if an individual remains asymptomatic through the end of Day 10.
  - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen (e.g. RT-PCR, antigen) tests negative and is collected on Day 5 or thereafter, and the person remains asymptomatic until the test result is received.
- People who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine when exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 as long as they are asymptomatic.