

Dear Parent or Guardian,

At DC Public Schools we are committed to keeping our families aware when there is a reported case of coronavirus (COVID-19) at a school. **We are sending this letter to inform you that your student has likely been exposed to an individual at SCHOOL on DATE who has since tested positive for COVID-19.** The person who tested positive is no longer on campus and will not return to the school building until medically cleared.

Since your student has been identified as a close contact for this reported case, **please follow the guidance outlined in numbers 1 through 3 below and self-quarantine based on their COVID-19 vaccination status<sup>1</sup>.** Regardless of their vaccination status, or if you test out of quarantine early, you should still closely monitor your student for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days.

This is an important, two-page document for you and your family. Please review fully and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

**1. What does it mean for a student to be identified as a close contact for a reported positive case at school?**

- The student was within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour window within 2 days prior to that person's illness onset or their positive test collection date.

Please note that since DCPS has [layered mitigation measures](#) in place at our schools, DC Health's close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of a student who reported a positive test if the close contact occurred in the classroom and all were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks and those measures were operational. This means that some classmates may not receive instructions to quarantine, but the entire school community will receive a notification about this reported positive case.

**2. If my student is not eligible for or is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, what happens next?**

**Your student should self-quarantine for 10 days from DATE through DATE** They cannot report for in-person activities and should remain at home during this time. We will follow-up with additional details to discuss your child's specific learning plan and how to request a technology device if you need one. Instruction may be fully virtual, a mix of simultaneous in-person and virtual instruction, or self-guided.

Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated students may end quarantine early and return to school on day 8 if they take the following steps:

- Take a PCR COVID-19 test on day 5 or later **AND** receive a negative PCR test result **AND** do not develop COVID-19 symptoms<sup>2</sup> at any point during their quarantine.

**3. If my student is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, what does that mean in this case?**

**Fully vaccinated students do not need to quarantine if they are not showing symptoms.** We do recommend that fully vaccinated students who are a close contact take a COVID-19 test between 3 and 5 days after they are exposed. Fully

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<sup>1</sup> You are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine). We encourage all students 12 and older to visit [vaccinate.dc.gov](https://vaccinate.dc.gov) and get vaccinated at a clinic near them.

<sup>2</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists the currently acknowledged symptoms here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.



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vaccinated people who experience any COVID-19 symptoms should isolate from others, contact their healthcare provider, and get tested for COVID-19.

If your student is waiting for a COVID-19 test result that was taken independently after symptoms of COVID-19, or experiences symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, please stay home and isolate them others, contact your healthcare provider to get tested if you have not already done so, and notify your school.

We understand this is a stressful time, and we hope this information is helpful as we all play a role to keep our school community safe. Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at [email address].

Thank you,

School Principal