

Lorain County School Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) during COVID-19

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**Lorain County
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

Q: I got a letter that says my child was in a classroom with someone that has COVID-19, what do I do now?

A: This letter is to notify you that there was a positive case in the classroom; it does not mean that your child was a close contact. Your child is still allowed to attend school. Be extra vigilant with symptom checks for your child and consider postponing any extracurricular activities, playdates, and visits. If your child develops symptoms, keep them home and contact your healthcare provider.

You will be notified by PCG or the school district if your child is considered a close contact and in need of quarantine.

Q: What counts as COVID-19 exposure or a close contact in a school setting?

A: A student may get identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case if they were within 3-6 feet of the COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours.

A student does NOT count as a close contact if **all three** of these strategies are in place in a school setting:

1. All staff and students are masked (regardless of vaccination status)
2. Physical distancing is maximized (there are at least 3 feet between desks)
3. There are documented COVID-19 prevention policies and procedures (identification of individuals experiencing symptoms, strategies to increase ventilation, protocols for cleaning, etc.)

If all three of these strategies are in place, the student may continue in the normal in-person classroom setting and participate in extracurricular and sport activities as long as they have no symptoms.

Q: My student was identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case, now what?

A:

If the student is vaccinated...

- Remain in the normal in-person classroom setting and participate in extracurricular and sport activities as long as they have no symptoms.
- Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, for 14 days.
- If the student develops COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider and ask about testing for COVID-19. If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date of the positive test.

If the student consistently wears a mask...

- Remain in the normal in-classroom setting and participate in extracurricular and sport activities as long as they have no symptoms.
- Continue wearing a mask indoors, as much as possible, for 14 days.
- If the student develops COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider and ask about testing for COVID-19. If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date of the positive test.

If the student is unvaccinated and does not consistently wear a mask...

- Stay home and quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure. An optional 10-day quarantine is available if the student does not have symptoms during their quarantine.

- They can return to normal classroom and extracurricular activities after 7 days if they have received a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test that was performed at least 5 days after exposure. If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date of the positive test.

Q: My child was quarantined, can they still go to school?

A: Yes, they may remain in the normal in-classroom setting while wearing a mask during their quarantine period as long as they remain asymptomatic. Outside of the in-classroom setting, normal quarantine rules and procedures apply (i.e. no extra-curricular activities).

Q: If my child is quarantined, can I still go to work?

A: Yes. Only the person officially quarantined must stay home. If someone in a household is quarantined, everyone else may do normal activities, as long as they're following standard COVID-19 precautions and do not have symptoms.

Q: My child is a close contact, why hasn't someone called me yet?

A: If your child is identified as a close contact by the school, then the school will notify you and inform you of the quarantine guidelines.

If your child is identified as a close contact by the positive case, then you will be notified by Public Consulting Group (PCG, a private contact tracing company). PCG handles all contact tracing and case management. LCPH will receive updates from PCG when large-scale outbreaks occur. LCPH is ready to respond to those local needs, should they arise.

Q: Where can I get tested?

A: Go to bit.ly/locotest for a list of nearby PCR testing locations.

More COVID-19 info from Lorain County Public Health:

- General COVID-19 information: LorainCountyHealth.com/coronavirus
- Local COVID-19 data: LorainCountyHealth.com/data
- Downloadable signs and resources: LorainCountyHealth.com/covid19resources
- I got tested, now what? 2 pages: [PDF](#), [PNG](#)
- I've been quarantined, now what? 2 pages: [PDF](#), [PNG](#)
- Videos for parents and schools: youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbVFtIAwx9FmD3wBNSpCr-2_M-ljBpbdk

Questions about COVID-19? Call Lorain County Public Health at 440-322-6367.