



Bell County Public Health District
PROMOTE • PREVENT • PROTECT

FAQs for Schools

1. What should I do if I'm concerned about the way a school or school district is operating?
 - a. The Health District does not have authority over schools. That authority rests in order with:
 - i. School Principal (for contact information please reach out to the school or check the school website)
 - ii. School District Superintendent (for contact information please reach out to the school district or check the school district website)
 - iii. School District Board (for contact information please reach out to the school district or check the school district website)
 - iv. Texas Education Agency: <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/contact-us>
2. Should siblings of symptomatic students also be sent home and quarantined, or allowed to attend school in person?
 - a. Anyone in a household where someone has confirmed COVID-19 should remain home and isolate until cleared by the Health District. The isolation period begins when the illness of the confirmed positive case ends. Please reference the School Reference Guide for detailed information on isolation periods.
 - b. If someone is in a household with a symptomatic person then all household members should remain in isolation pending testing of the symptomatic individual.
3. How long does a household contact of a Covid-19 + patient need to quarantine?
 - a. That depends:
 - i. If the contact becomes ill before the COVID-19 positive individual recovers they need to follow the recovery guidelines of a confirmed positive case which is outlined here.
 - ii. If they do not become ill or test positive before the COVID-19 positive individual recovers then they must isolate. Please see the following guide provided to school districts that outlines protocols for isolation.

4. If a person that was a close contact of a COVID + patient has a negative COVID-19 test, can they return to school before the 14 day quarantine period?
 - a. This depends on symptomatic versus asymptomatic:
 - i. If asymptomatic: No. A negative test does not shorten the isolation period.
 - ii. If symptomatic: A negative test may indicate that symptoms are for an alternate diagnosis and may shorten the isolation period.

5. If one or more staff were working together with a staff who tests positive for longer than 30 minutes and less than 6 feet apart, do they have to quarantine for 14 days?
Wearing masks? Not wearing masks?
 - a. If both parties are consistently and correctly using their masks and the COVID-19 positive person was not symptomatic then that would not be considered an exposure and they would not need to quarantine, but they should self-monitor for any symptoms.
 - b. If mask wearing is not consistent by one or more parties or the COVID-19 positive individual is heavily symptomatic then this would be considered an exposure, and they would need to quarantine.

For additional questions please email covid@bellcountyhealth.org and one of our staff will respond to your question. It is expected that additional questions and answers will be added to this document as questions come to us.