

# GUIDANCE FOR EXPOSURES AND QUARANTINE IN THE K-12 SCHOOL SETTING

The following information is from the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services and the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education “Guidance for Assessing COVID-19 Exposures and Defining Close Contacts in a School Setting” available [here](#) in the first section of the K-12 School COVID-19 Operating Guidance.

## OPTION ONE

**No quarantine. Stay in school and participate in extracurricular activities.**

- Fully vaccinated or tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days.

### Questions to Consider:

- Is the contact fully vaccinated? Fully vaccinated is defined as 2 weeks post second dose in a 2-dose series (ex. Moderna or Pfizer) or 2 weeks past 1-dose series (ex. Johnson & Johnson).
- Has the close contact tested positive with a viral test such as a PCR or antigen test (not to include an at-home test or antibody test) in the prior 90 days, fully recovered, and remains without symptoms?

## OPTION TWO

**No quarantine. Stay in school and participate in extracurricular activities.**

- Distanced within 3 to 6 feet in the school setting, AND both the case and contact masked consistently and correctly.

### Questions to Consider:

- Did the exposure occur in a K-12 setting?
- Were both the case and contact between 3 to 6 feet apart during the exposure?
- Were both the case and the contact both correctly and consistently masked during the exposure?

## OPTION THREE

**Quarantine outside of school setting, but stay in school. No participation in extracurricular activities.**

- Distanced less than 3 feet in the school setting, AND both the case and contact masked consistently and correctly.

### Questions to Consider:

- Did the exposure occur in a K-12 setting?
- Were both the case and contact less than 3 feet apart during the exposure in a K-12 setting?
- Were both the case and the contact correctly and consistently masked during the exposure?

## OPTION FOUR

**Quarantine outside of school setting. Stay in school, masked consistently and correctly at all times. Test a minimum of three times during the first seven days of quarantine. Can participate in extracurricular activities, under specific testing protocols.**

- Distanced 0 to 6 feet, unvaccinated, and one or both persons unmasked.

### Questions to Consider:

- Was the exposure to a case that lived in the same household?
- Is the contact showing any symptoms or signs of illness?

Persons who develop symptoms of COVID-19 need to test and isolate and not be at school or around others. Quarantine is recommended for students, teachers, and staff identified as close contacts to a case who do not meet one of the stated options. **The final determination of a close contact and the recommendation for isolation or quarantine is at the discretion of the Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs).** LPHAs may implement more stringent criteria.