

Salem City School District

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Dear Ram Family:

Below is an update regarding Contact Tracing:

CDC Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

Case Investigation & Contact Tracing

Fundamental activities that involve working with a patient who has been diagnosed with an infectious disease to identify and provide support to people (contacts) who may have been infected through exposure to the patient. This process prevents further transmission of disease by separating people who have (or may have) an infectious disease from people who do not.

Close Contact

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

- **Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Public Health Recommendations:

Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine. However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:

- People who have been fully vaccinated
- People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months

Additional Information:

A number of factors can influence a person's risk of exposure to COVID-19, including the type, proximity, and duration of their exposure, environmental factors (such as crowding and ventilation), vaccination status, prior COVID-19 infection, and mask use.

Correct and consistent mask use is a critical step that people can take to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. However, the type of masks used and whether they are used consistently and correctly varies throughout the general population. Except in K-12 indoor classroom settings as described above, mask use is not considered when defining a close contact during case investigation and contact tracing, regardless of whether the person diagnosed with COVID-19 or the person exposed to SARS-CoV-2 was wearing a mask. (Note: Exposure risk in the healthcare setting is determined separately and outlined in CDC guidance).

Summary of Changes:

- ✓ Proximity: within the classroom has been revised from 6 feet to **3 feet**. The Administrative Team and Teachers will have classrooms set up with seating assignments, so we no longer send out entire classrooms.
- ✓ Face Coverings: If **both** the positive test student and close contact student(s) were wearing mask, the close contact student(s) will **not** need to be quarantined. So, please remind your child(ren) to properly wear their mask **every day**. We don't want your child(ren) to unnecessarily be quarantined.
- ✓ Vaccination Status: This only impacts students from **6th/7th-12th grade**. Students younger than 12 are not eligible for this exception. If your child(ren) is part of a contact tracing, please make sure you inform the nurse of your child's status.

We look forward to another successful school year!!!

Educationally yours,

Amiot P. Michel

Amiot P. Michel, Ed.D.