

COVID RESPONSE TASK FORCE - PROTOCOL FOR SYMPTOMS AND EXPOSURE OF COVID 19

Updated 10/01/2021

1

What is considered a significant exposure to a COVID positive person?

- Exposure is defined by the CDC as being within six feet of a known COVID positive person for greater than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period.
- Face coverings at Tuscaloosa Academy will still be taken into account when considering significant exposure. With our protocol, we have seen no transmission within our community between people who are six feet apart and wearing masks.
- Exposure within a confined space, such as, but not limited to a car, heightens the risk of contracting Covid -19 and may require additional steps.

2

What if my child is exposed to someone with COVID? (Non-Vaccinated Procedure)

- Contact the school and inform them of the situation. The school will determine if close contact has occurred. Extended close contact exposure may result in additional quarantine time.
- How long should my child quarantine?
 - Keep your child at home and away from others ("self-quarantine"). The child should be in quarantine for a minimum of 10 days after the LAST DAY of exposure.
- When do I test my child?
 - They only need to be tested if they develop symptoms (see #4).
- When can they return to school?
 - If they remain SYMPTOM-FREE and in quarantine, they can typically return to school on day 11. Consult your doctor if you have questions.

3

What if my child is exposed to someone with COVID? (Vaccinated Procedure)

- If your child has a COVID vaccination card on file at the school office and it has been two weeks or more since completion of the full vaccination, then the following applies:
 - The student is eligible to return to class immediately with no quarantine restrictions.
 - You should continue to wear a mask in school and in any close contact situations.
 - You should take precautions and consider yourself a potential COVID carrier until 10 days are over and you remain symptom-free
 - If you become symptomatic, you should follow the procedures in #4

4

What if my child develops symptoms worrisome for COVID?

- Symptoms may include fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Contact the school and inform them of the situation.
- Do not send your sick child or your unvaccinated children to school.
- Keep your child at home and away from others ("Self-quarantine")
- Get your child tested at least 2 days after symptoms begin.
- Keep unvaccinated siblings at home until test results are back.
- So, when can they return to school?
 - Your child can return to school when they have a negative test result and symptoms have improved. Asymptomatic, non-vaccinated siblings can return to school when the initial child's test is negative.

5

What if my child tests positive for COVID?

- Contact the school and inform them of the situation.
- Do not send your child (or children) to school.
- Keep your child at home and away from others ("self-quarantine").
- How long do I keep my child at home?
 - 10 days from the date of the positive test. Your child may return to school on the 11th day if they are asymptomatic. A negative test result will NOT be required.
- Arrange for remote learning with the school.
- Siblings of the child need to be separated from the COVID positive child as much as possible. They will need to follow the exposure directions outlined above in under Protocol #2 and #3.
- In all cases, if your child tests positive for COVID, they may return to school on the 11th day after the positive test. Once your child/children have tested positive, there is no need for further testing, isolation or quarantine for a period of 12 weeks.