

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

Updated 1/25/2022

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?
 - Your child should be in quarantine for a minimum of six days (Days 0-5) after their LAST DAY of exposure. Please note that if re-exposure occurs, the clock starts over with Day 0.
- When do I test my child?
 - They only need to be tested if they develop symptoms (see #4).
- When can they return to school?
 - They may return to school on Day 6 (after quarantining Days 0 through 5), as long as they remain symptom-free during the quarantine period. Once your child returns to school, he/she will be required to wear a mask while at school and in any close contact situations.

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")
- 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?
 - *Your child will need to quarantine at home for Days 0-5, with Day 0 being the first day of symptoms. He/She can return to school on Day 6, as long as they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication and their symptoms have improved. A negative test will not be required for your child to return to school. Once your child returns to school, he/she will be required to wear a mask while at school and in any close contact situations. If your child is unable to wear a mask, they will need to remain at home for a full ten days after their symptoms begin.*
- 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.
- Once your child/children have tested positive, there is no need for further testing, isolation or quarantine for a period of 12 weeks.