

# LACLEDE CO R-1 SCHOOL, COVID-19 & QUARANTINE Q & A

*What you need to know if a student tests positive for COVID-19*

**What happens if a child tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire class and teacher be quarantined?** Contact tracing will take place to determine which students have been in close contact with the individual who tested positive.

Those students will be placed on quarantine per the Health Department and CDC quarantine guidelines.

- For the classroom, we will look at seating charts for each class. Students in close contact to the student testing positive are placed on quarantine.
- For activities, we investigate who has been in close contact with the student testing positive and those individuals are placed on quarantine.
- There is also a large component of out of school gatherings, so if the student testing positive has been in close contact with friends outside of school, contact tracing could require those students to also be placed on quarantine.

We are doing everything we can to reduce that risk through social distancing, masking, barriers and cohorts. For example, if a classroom is split into small groups and the groups socially distance, the exposure risk is reduced to only the individuals in that group. This will have to be documented for every class that student is in.

**What does “close contact” mean?** You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more.

**Will parents be notified if there is a positive case?** We will not send a district-wide notification in every individual instance and the name of the student/students testing positive will not be released by Laclede Co. R-1 School District per confidentiality guidelines.

- We will notify families of students who are at risk of low exposure via email or text. Your student can continue to attend school, but should monitor for symptoms. An example: Your student has not had close contact with a student who tested positive in their class.
- We will individually contact by phone anyone at high risk of exposure and place them on quarantine based on Health Department and CDC quarantine guidelines. An example: Your student sits next to a student who has tested positive.

**How soon will we be notified if our student is at high risk of exposure?**

The Health Departments work with the school on those notifications as they come in, every attempt is made to notify individual families as soon as possible, so those students do not come to school.

**What is the process if my student tests positive?** Please notify your student’s school. The student’s name will only be shared with authorized personnel as this is confidential information per FERPA. Your student will be out of school for the required number of days per Health Department and CDC guidelines. Our teachers will work with your student regarding coursework.

**If an in-home family member is required to quarantine, will my student be required to quarantine?** No. Your student can continue to attend school but should monitor for symptoms.

**If someone in my household has a pending COVID-19 test, can my child go to school?**

Please keep your student home until you receive results. Please notify the school anytime your student is absent. Our teachers will work with your student regarding coursework.

**If an in-home family member tests positive, will my student be required to quarantine?**

Yes. Your student will be placed on quarantine based on Health Department and CDC quarantine guidelines. Our teachers will work with your student regarding coursework.

**Does the District have the ability to close down a certain school if a spike appears to be happening in that location?**

Yes, it's based on the spread in the school and the spread in community. We will look at each individual case, but we do have the ability to shut down an individual classroom, building or the entire District.

**If my student tests positive for COVID-19 or has to quarantine, can they "attend" school online during that time?**

Very similar to when a student is on an extended absence (vacations or medical reasons for instance), the student will be able to work with the teacher to ensure they can keep up on coursework.

**Is this year's absence policy changing?** While we will continue to take attendance as we are required to track this, we are removing all positive attendance incentives for the 2020-21 school year. Attendance is still very important and administration will continue to work with families with low attendance. If a student is ill, we want them to stay home.

*Updated Sept. 4, 2020*