

Isolation & Quarantine for EBRPSS Pre-K-12 Schools and K-12 Sports (In Alignment with LDH COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: Revised 7/20/22)

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. [Promoting vaccination](#) among all eligible individuals can help schools protect students and staff, as well as their families.

Based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), the following Louisiana Department of Health recommendations include options that allow for alternatives to the standard quarantine guidance. These options are intended to provide additional support for in-person learning for PreK-12 students and continued attendance for early childhood students as safely as possible.

Isolation Guidance for Confirmed or Suspected (symptomatic) COVID-19 in Pre-K – 12 Schools:

Individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection (regardless of vaccination status) should not return to school until the following “end of self-isolation criteria” are met (or until an alternate diagnosis is made):

- Stay home for 5 days
 - Day 0 is the day symptoms began or, if asymptomatic, the day the person took a test that had a positive result. Day 1 is the day after symptoms began; if a person does not have symptoms, Day 1 is the day after the person tested positive (use the date the test sample was collected).
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school*.
 - If you continue to have a fever (100.4 or greater) or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days, you should stay in isolation until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your other symptoms have improved.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days (i.e., through Day 10).
 - If school cannot ensure masking for 5 additional days, then the individual should isolate for a full 10 days.
 - Student athletes participating in contact sports should **NOT** return to athletic events for the full 10 days.

***Students ONLY: Proof of Positive COVID-19 Test result or a signed physician’s note that states the date student is cleared to return to school should be submitted to excuse absences.**

Principal/designee will **report ALL confirmed COVID-19 cases** using the online **EBRPSS COVID-19 Reporting Portal** and **they will provide weekly data to LDH via their school’s reporting portal**. For support with accessing either of the reporting portals, contact jduvic1@ebschools.org.

Identifying Close Contacts to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case

Contact tracing should be conducted for each case’s infectious period, starting 48 hours before a person develops symptoms (or 48 hours before positive test collection, if asymptomatic).

Close contact is defined as:

- Being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hr period **OR** having direct physical contact with an infected person

Exception: If BOTH the case and the contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting face mask **AND** were **3 or more feet** from each other, then the contact is NOT considered a close contact. They should continue to mask while indoors until at least Day 10 post-exposure.



Quarantine (Close Contact) Guidance for PreK-12 Schools

EBRPSS is following the CDC’s Safest Protocol (Option 1 below)

The last day an individual has close contact with a case is Day 0 of quarantine. Day 1 begins the day after their last close contact.

1. CDC Quarantine Guidance for PreK-12 Schools (Safest Protocol)

Below is the current CDC quarantine guidance.

Close Contact with a Positive Individual	Quarantine Guidance
If you are up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not necessary (unless symptomatic). Wear a mask around others for 10 days. Monitor for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Test on Day 5, if possible*. If your test result is positive, see isolation guidance above.
If you are NOT up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home/quarantine for 5 days. After that, return to school (if asymptomatic) but continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days (i.e., through Day 10). Monitor for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with a positive individual. If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Stay home until you know the results (if positive, follow isolation guidance above). Test on Day 5, if possible*. If your test result is positive, see isolation guidance above.
If you tested positive for COVID-19 (with an antigen or PCR test) in the previous 90 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You DO NOT need to stay home unless you develop symptoms. Wear a mask around others for 10 days. Monitor for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with a positive individual. If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Stay home until you know the results (if positive, follow isolation guidance above). Test on Day 5, if possible*. If your test result is positive, see isolation guidance above.
If a student cannot wear a mask in the school setting, reasonable accommodations will be made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be asked to quarantine at home for 10 days. Parents/guardians may provide the school with a note (signed by the student’s healthcare provider) stating that their student has a mask exception (health plan(s) may be revised accordingly).

** Limited availability of diagnostic tests may make it difficult for an asymptomatic individual to find testing. Testing on Day 5 post-exposure is recommended, but is **not required for return to school**. Students may submit a note from their healthcare provider to excuse absence.*

Quarantine (Close Contact) Guidance for K-12 Sports

Contact vs. Non-Contact Sports

- **Contact sports** are sports in which some level of contact between participants is expected. Contact sports include, but are not limited to, football, basketball, soccer, wrestling, softball, baseball, volleyball, and cheer.
- **Non-contact sports** are sports in which contact with another individual is not expected. Non-contact sports include, but are not limited to, swimming, golf, bowling, bass fishing, and gymnastics.

Due to the high rates of transmission that have been observed among K-12 sports teams, in order for student athletes to continue to participate in **contact sports**, the following precautions will be observed by all EBRPSS athletic programs to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

Student Athletes who are NOT Up-to-Date with Vaccination will (follow option 1 or 2 below):

Option 1:

Refrain from participation for 10 days and can return to practice or compete in close contact sports on Day 11 following close contact with positive case.

Option 2 – Test to Stay*:

Refrain from participation for 5 days and can return to practice or compete in close contact sports on Day 6 following close contact **IF:**

- They remain asymptomatic **AND**
- They test negative for COVID-19 on screening tests administered twice during Days 6-10 following the last close contact. Tests should be administered on non-consecutive days (e.g., sample collection on Day 7 and 10).

Student athletes who are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination (or tested positive within the last 90 days) will (follow option 1 or 2 below):

Option 1:

Refrain from participation for 10 days (consider testing on day 5, if possible) and may return to practice or compete in close contact sports on Day 11 following close contact with positive case.

Option 2 – Test to Stay*:

Can continue to practice and compete in contact sports following close contact with a positive COVID-19 case **IF:**

- They remain asymptomatic **AND**
- They test negative for COVID-19 on screening tests administered twice during Days 0-5 and twice during Days 6-10 following the last close contact. Tests should be administered on non-consecutive days (e.g., specimen collection on Day 2, 4, 7 and 10).

***Principals/Designees who are interested in offering the “Test to Stay” options above can contact Cheree Duvic, Supervisor of Health Services to request support with getting their athletic teams enrolled in the Safer, Smarter Schools testing program – jduvic1@ebrschools.org or (225) 317-8703.**