

Here is summarized the updated (08/23/22) COVID reporting, isolation, and quarantine guidance for school settings K-12 and Early Care and Education Programs.

Reporting COVID cases

Schools will still use the **Microsoft SharePoint reporting spreadsheet** to report COVID cases to Williamson County.

- Based on the new TEA guidance (attached) released earlier this week on August 1
 - Parents of students who test **positive** at school should be notified **immediately**, to expedite the arrangement to pick them up for their 5-day isolation.
 - Parents should also **notify** schools if their student tests **positive** outside of school.

Case Classification

Positive COVID cases should be classified as one of these three during reporting.

Type of Test	Classification
PCR/Abbott test/NAATs-Confirmed (Positive) Test	Confirmed case
Rapid/Antigen-confirmed (Positive) Test: performed at a facility that has CLIA oversight (a lab, clinic, or school nurse's office)	Probable case
Home Test (Positive)	Suspect case

Isolation/Exclusion of Positive COVID cases and Masking

Those who test positive should be excluded from attending school in person for at least 5 days and may return on day 6 if fever free, and other symptoms have improved. This includes teachers and students. [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19 | CDC](#)

Those with no symptoms may end isolation after day 5 and continue to wear a mask through day 10.

Those with symptoms may end isolation after day 5 and continue to wear a mask through day 10 if:

- You are fever-free for 24 hours (**without the use of fever-reducing medication**)
- Your symptoms are improving

Upon completion of isolation, when you are feeling better (**no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms improving**)

- Wear your mask through day 10

OR

- If you have access to antigen tests, you should consider using them. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner than day 10.
 - Note: If your antigen test results¹ are positive, you may still be infectious. You should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test. Continue taking antigen tests at least 48 hours apart until you have two sequential negative results. This may mean you need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10.

Those unable to wear a mask should continue to isolate through day 10.

A. Management of Cases and Exposures

Notifying Families and Exposed Contacts (Close Contacts) of COVID cases

Regarding notifying families and staff about being exposed to COVID cases – it is in the best interest of those close contacts and their families to be notified so they can take proper precaution and anticipate when to test or opt to keep their child at home. Although the TEA in their Aug 1 guidance, does not mention notifying parents of close contacts, they do recommend schools to “consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding implementation of the state requirements referenced by [TEA’s public health guidance.]”

So, in line with the TEA public health guidance released on January 7, 2022, we recommend that:

“Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.”

AND

“Public health authorities will be notified of all positive cases in schools. While school systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 case investigations, local public health entities have authority to investigate cases and are currently engaged in cooperative efforts on that front. Participation by individuals in these investigations remains voluntary. If school systems are made aware that a student is a close contact, the school system must notify the student’s parents.”

AND

Schools should take steps as outlined below regarding precaution for COVID close contacts.

Isolation and precautions for people with (close contacts) of COVID cases

Under new CDC guidance the recommendation to quarantine has been removed, except in high-risk congregate setting. In schools and ECE settings, which are generally not considered high-risk congregate settings, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested (stated in **Isolation/Exclusion of Positive COVID cases and Masking** section).

If you test positive for COVID-19 stay home for at least 5 days and isolate yourself from others.

Testing should occur:

- Immediately if you have symptoms
- If exposed to COVID-19 and do not have symptoms, wait at least 5 full days after your exposure before testing.

Those who are up-to-date with vaccination or have had a PCR confirmed COVID infection in the last 90 days aren't recommended to quarantine, but every close contact regardless of their vaccine or prior infection status should

- 1. monitor for symptoms for 10 days following exposure,**
- 2. test immediately if they develop symptoms, and**
- 3. test at least 5 days after exposure regardless of symptoms.**

You can reach out with questions and concerns to the epidemiology department at epi@wilco.org or by calling 512-943-3660.

Best regards,