

DPSCD Staff, Families, and Students,

I want to take a moment to inform everyone that the CDC (Federal), State, and City Health Departments have revised previous close contact and quarantining guidelines for K-12 settings, including our district. These changes are now in effect for all employees and students. Admittedly, the information is dense, but I wanted to be sure everyone receives the details of these changes. They are outlined below:

### **Quarantine Guidance for Individuals Testing Positive for COVID**

Regardless of vaccination status, anyone who tests positive for COVID is required to quarantine for 5 days. They should take an antigen (rapid) test immediately after quarantine and may return to work/school on day 6 if they have a negative result. We are working to obtain these tests (if available) for employees and students. A well fitted mask is required, regardless of work location, for days 6-10. COVID positive individuals are exempt from weekly PCR testing for the 90 days following their initial positive result and should not test through LynxDx, as they will likely continue to test positive for up to 90 days. Employees should submit their negative COVID test or note of clearance from their healthcare provider to [DPS.EHS@detroitk12.org](mailto:DPS.EHS@detroitk12.org) prior to returning to work. Please note that immunocompromised individuals, as well as those hospitalized by COVID should isolate for a minimum of 10 days, and up to 20 days. Such individuals should refer to their healthcare provider for further guidance, and ensure proper documentation is submitted to Employee Health Services.

### **Contact Tracing & Quarantine**

Effective immediately, contact tracing will no longer be required for lower-risk school settings such as classrooms, buses, and most extracurricular activities where multiple safety mitigation strategies are in place. For lower-risk school settings, the COVID positive person needs to quarantine and the COVID Qualtrics survey should be completed by the principal/supervisor or her designee, but no individuals need to quarantine. However, as a district, we will still share any and all positive cases for in person employees and students through robo calls/texts and through our district website.

### **Contact Tracing and Quarantine for Close Contacts Required for Higher-Risk School Settings**

If exposure occurs in a higher-risk school setting, the COVID positive individual needs to quarantine, the COVID Qualtrics survey should be completed, and contact tracing is still required. Close contacts should quarantine for the required amount of time. Higher-risk school settings include: lunchroom/cafeteria/classrooms utilized for lunch, high risk extracurricular (e.g. basketball, ice hockey, competitive cheer, wrestling, unmasked theater, band and choir), classes or school events where masks cannot/are not worn, household close contacts of a positive case who cannot isolate, any declared outbreaks and when an educator has been in school while infectious. Contact tracing should include up to 2 days prior to positive test result date or confirmed symptom onset date (whichever is earliest). Close contacts are individuals who are within 3 feet of the COVID positive individual for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more over 24 hours.

### **Self-Contained Homerooms/Cohorts Entire Groups Required to Quarantine**

The Detroit Health Department has updated guidance for self-contained homerooms/cohorts required to quarantine. If there are 6 cases in a class of 30 or 20% of the cohort/homeroom population testing positive for COVID, then the entire homeroom/cohort is required to quarantine.

### **Once close contacts are identified, who is exempt from quarantine?**

There are only 3 categories of people exempt from quarantine, if they have been identified as a close contact due to exposure through the higher-risk school settings described above:

- Anyone 18+ who has received the primary dosage (1 shot of J&J; 2 shots for Pfizer and Moderna) and their booster
- Anyone under 18 who has received the primary dosage (both shots)
- Anyone who tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days

All other individuals are required to quarantine, if identified as a close contact.

### **How long is quarantine?**

Anyone identified as a close contact who does not meet the 3 exemption criteria listed above is required to quarantine for 5 days. A rapid antigen retest is recommended immediately after quarantine. This is regardless of physical distance between exposed individuals (assuming a close contact), testing schedule, and masking. A mask should be worn in public and indoors between end of quarantine and day 10.

### **Test to Stay**

A “Test to Stay” strategy may be implemented in lieu of this guidance, which allows students to continue in-class learning, but not involvement in extra-curriculars during the quarantine period. The tests must be administered by trained staff (onsite or offsite) and must be completed every other day for a 6-calendar-day period; a minimum number of 3 tests, with the last occurring between days 5-6. Testing does not need to be completed on weekends or holidays and does require parental consent for antigen test.

Students are eligible for the “Test to Stay” strategy if they:

- Are not fully vaccinated against COVID; and
- Have been exposed according to the Detroit Health Department’s definition of a “close contact”, and
- Are showing no symptoms of COVID

Please note that “Test to Stay” is not eligible to unvaccinated household close contacts, if positive case cannot isolate while infectious, or staff/educators.

I know this was a lot of information, but I thought it was important to specifically note the changes that are currently being implemented.

Sincerely,  
Nikolai P. Vitti. Ed.D  
Superintendent  
Detroit Public Schools Community District