



SCHOOL & COVID-19 EXPOSURE



Are masks required for students?

Masks are only required on school buses; however they are strongly encouraged inside Ozark School District buildings. If a single building exclusion rate exceeds 8%, masks may be required for the remainder of the week. The situation will be evaluated at the end of the week to determine procedures for the following week.

What is a close contact? Close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

What is exclusion? Exclusion occurs when a student is sent home from school if a student is considered a close contact or has a positive COVID-19 test result. The only restriction is that the student may not attend school or participate in school activities.

How is exclusion determined?

Students who are considered a close contact, will be sent home **unless** they are:

- Wearing a mask properly
- Fully vaccinated - two weeks after the second dose in a two dose series or two weeks after a single dose vaccine
- Within 90 days of one dose in a two dose vaccination series
- Within 90 days of a positive COVID-19 test

What is quarantine? Quarantines are determined by the health department and include more restrictions than exclusions.

What happens if a child tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire class and teacher be sent home? Ozark School District will investigate and determine which students have been in close contact at school with the individual who tested positive. Those students will be [sent home](#) per School Board policy [EBB](#) and guidelines from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

- We will look at seating charts for each class and proximity during activities. Students who are considered a close contact with the student testing positive will be [sent home](#) if they are unmasked and unvaccinated.

Will parents be notified if there is a positive case? We will individually contact families by phone if a student is considered a close contact.

If a student is a close contact and is sent home, when can they return to school? [CDC guidance](#) allows students who have had no symptoms to return to school after 7 days with a negative test result taken after day 5. Ozark School District provides free [COVID-19 testing](#) for students and staff.

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. Your student will be out of school for [10 days](#). Our teachers will work with your student regarding coursework.

If an in-home family member tests positive, will my student be required to stay home? This will depend on the situation with variables such as isolation, vaccination and exposure. Discuss your situation with your school administrator.

If my student's teacher is required to stay home, what will happen with instruction for that time? Every classroom will have a certified substitute teacher. We are working with each teacher's situation to enable them to teach online, if they are healthy enough to do so, to help facilitate the learning with the substitute.

If a class or building is instructed to stay at home, does education continue online? In the event we are instructed to close a single class or building due to COVID-19 exposure, Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) would begin immediately. Learn more about AMI in this [FAQ](#).

Is this year's absence policy changing? We will continue to take attendance as we are required to track this, but we are removing all attendance incentives for the 2021-22 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.