



SCHOOL, COVID-19 & QUARANTINE



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 [CDC quarantine guidelines](#).

- For the classroom, we will look at seating charts for each class. As long as face coverings are in place, only students in close contact to the student testing positive are placed on [quarantine for 14 days](#).
- For activities, we investigate who has been in close contact with the student testing positive and those individuals are placed on [quarantine for 14 days](#).
- 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, those students will also be placed on [quarantine for 14 days](#).

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. This is regardless of whether all individuals wore masks or not.

Will parents be notified if there is a positive case? We will not send a district-wide notification and the name of the student/students testing positive will not be released by Ozark School District.

- We will notify families of students who are at risk of low exposure via email and 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](#) for 14 days based on [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? If there is a high risk exposure associated with the school, we work to finish those phone calls the same day so students are not returning to school the next day. On the community side, the Health Department works on those notifications as they come in, but we have heard of delays on their end due to the volume of notifications. The Health Department focuses on the [contact tracing](#) within the community, so they would notify anyone with a high risk exposure not associated with school.

If a student is sent home for a high risk exposure and is placed on a 14-day quarantine, will a negative COVID-19 test allow them to return to school before 14 days? No. Students must remain [quarantined](#) for 14 days per [CDC quarantine guidelines](#). A person can test positive any time within the 14-day window. For example, a negative test on Day 6 of quarantine does not mean the student won't test positive on Day 7 or beyond.

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 [10 days](#). 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 [CDC quarantine guidelines](#). Our teachers will work with your student regarding coursework.

If my student is sent home with symptoms, when can they return? Students with two or more unexplained symptoms are sent home for 10 days. Students may return sooner if they receive a negative test result.

If my student's teacher is required to quarantine, what will happen with instruction for that time? We are working with each teacher's situation to be able to teach online if they are healthy but required to quarantine, while having someone in the classroom to help facilitate the learning.

Does the District have the ability to close down a certain school if a spike appears to be happening in that location? We have a [school closure decision making process](#) to help guide us in these decisions. 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 a class or building is instructed to quarantine at home, does education continue online? In the event we are instructed to close a single class or building due to COVID-19 quarantine, Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) would begin immediately. Learn more about AMI in this [FAQ](#).

If a class is quarantined and AMI is implemented, what does instruction look like? Last spring gave us a foundation to build upon for [AMI](#) and we learned a tremendous amount. From this point forward, our AMI will be much more closely aligned with our classroom instruction and level of rigor. Ozark strives for excellence and we hope to see that continue if we are forced to implement AMI.

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.