

Recently, there has been much discussion around quarantines since we have had multiple positives in our middle and high schools. These positives have put a significant number of students in quarantine. A process has been in place since the beginning of the return to school with our local Clarksburg-Harrison Health Department. Harrison County Schools has followed this format and continues to do so even with our five-day return. The process is explained below to clarify any misinformation that may exist:

#### **HOW ARE SCHOOLS NOTIFIED OF POSITIVES?**

1. The school or superintendent is alerted of a positive student or staff member.
2. If the notification is not from the health department, we verify the positive to begin contract tracing.
3. Date of onset of symptoms is determined along with the last day the student/staff was in school. The school administration and school nurse begin to pull student rosters, seating charts, and any other information to assist in contact tracing.

#### **HOW DO YOU DETERMINE QUARANTINE TIME?**

Harrison County School's quarantines for 10 days from the date of exposure. This is a source of confusion for parents and staff because we most often find out about the positive multiple days after the date of exposure in the school. So, by the time we notify those exposed, they are partially through their quarantine period.

#### **HOW LONG DO STUDENTS HAVE TO QUARANTINE IF THEY ARE IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT?**

Students in quarantine must complete the full 10 days of quarantine and cannot test out of quarantine. All individuals in quarantine must be symptom-free to return to school. If any student in quarantine develops symptoms, he/she needs to have a negative test result prior to returning to school.

#### **WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE FAMILY OF A QUARANTINED STUDENT?**

Siblings and parents of students in quarantine can continue to go to school/work as long as the student in quarantine is symptom free. Does quarantine just affect my student attending school? Students in quarantine cannot attend daycare, sports, work, and other activities. Students in quarantine are encouraged to isolate themselves from other family members if possible.

#### **SHOULD I GET MY CHILD IN QUARANTINE TESTED?**

We don't recommend being tested unless your student develops symptoms. If you choose to get tested, you should wait 5 days after the last exposure. Keep in mind that even if it is negative, the student must complete the entire quarantine.



### HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHO NEEDS QUARANTINED?

Based on guidelines from the CDC, WVDHHR, and our local Health Department:

- **For elementary classrooms**, Harrison County Schools has always quarantined the whole classroom. The entire class will be taught virtually during the quarantined period.
- **For middle and high school** positive students, Harrison County Schools reviews seating charts in classrooms and does a square around the student (front, back, side to side and diagonal). Students within six foot of a positive are placed in quarantine regardless of if they were wearing a mask.

### HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED THAT MY STUDENT IS IN QUARANTINE?

Guardians of a student who is identified as a close contact may be notified of quarantine in various ways:

- A phone call from the school nurse.
- An automated call after school hours.
- If we find out about a positive case at the end of the school day the affected students may be given a written quarantine note to hand carry home. The school nurse will be available the next school day to answer any questions.

### WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL WORK WHILE MY STUDENT IS IN QUARANTINE?

Teachers are notified of students on the quarantine list and know who they need to provide work for. Students are also directed to contact the teachers and are still required to complete assigned work while they are remote during their quarantine period.

### WILL MY STUDENT BE COUNTED ABSENT WHILE IN QUARANTINE?

The school is provided with a quarantine note and students in quarantine are counted as an excused absence. They are marked as a virtual learner during their time in quarantine.

Everyone in the Harrison County School system remains committed to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We continue to ask that everyone do their part and support the mitigation strategies. We will continue to update our protocols as new guidance is received from the WVDHHR, WVDE and our local health department.





**DOES MY STUDENT NEED TO BE QUARANTINED IF THEY ARE VACCINATED?**

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine. People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19, 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), or 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

