



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554-7246
Phone: 540-658-6000
www.staffordschools.net

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Office of the Superintendent
Thomas W. Taylor, Ed.D., M.B.A., Superintendent

February 9, 2022

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

Last night, the School Board voted to update its contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine protocols as well as a revision of our health mitigation strategies. Essentially, the new protocols reduce the required isolation and recommended quarantine windows. The updated guidelines are as follows:

- If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19 but has **no symptoms**, they should isolate (stay home) for five days. If there are still no symptoms on Day 5, they may end isolation and wear a well-fitting mask when around others on Days 6-10. If wearing a mask is not possible for the additional five days, isolation for the full ten days will be expected. If symptoms develop, isolation starts over (resetting the five-day clock).
- If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19 **and has symptoms**, they should isolate (stay home) for five days. If fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms are improving, on Day 6 isolation can end while wearing a well-fitted mask when around others for an additional five days. If symptoms persist more than five days, isolation should continue until you are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.
- All potentially exposed staff in the building and parents of potentially exposed students in the classroom or setting will be notified by letter of possible exposure. If notified, the expectation after a potential exposure is to monitor for symptoms. Potentially exposed staff and students might be recommended to quarantine for five days based on quarantine criteria.
- The Virginia Health Department also recommends a transition to limited contact tracing for outbreaks or high-risk settings, which could potentially lead to quarantining. The priorities as outlined by the VDH are essential workers, teachers, activities that involve high transmission (i.e., athletics, band, chorus), and staff/students who have immunocompromised and comorbid conditions. If you fall within one or more of these categories it will be recommended that you quarantine. If notified, the expectation after a potential exposure is to monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitted mask for ten days after last known exposure while in contact with others. It is recommended that you get tested five days after last known exposure and stay home if symptoms develop. **If you choose to quarantine, you will only be expected to quarantine for five days, as long as symptoms do not develop after five days.**

Our contact tracing will change to focus exclusively on essential workers, teachers, activities that involve high transmission, and students who are immunocompromised or have comorbid conditions in accordance with the VDH recommendation. These efforts will continue to ensure the safety of each other, our students, and our families.

The School Board will meet tomorrow, Thursday, February 10, 2022 to discuss other mitigation strategies. Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we work through this change in procedure.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Taylor, Ed.D., M.B.A.
Superintendent