

# Updated DHEC Guidance: COVID-19 Quarantine & Isolation

Updated: January 13, 2022



The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) have provided new guidance for COVID-19 quarantine and isolation protocols. As such, the Chester County School District (CCSD) will abide by these new protocols in accordance with state and federal regulations. Under South Carolina law, school districts are required to follow the DHEC's School Exclusion List, which establishes protocols for infected individuals and those who are determined to be close contacts as defined by DHEC's COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools. Both of these documents are available on the District's website.

**Neither the CCSD Board of Trustees nor district administration have the authority to disregard, or modify these protocols for any illness included in the DHEC School Exclusion List.**

## QUARANTINE:

for those who are close contact exposures

### IF UNVACCINATED

- **Must quarantine for 5 days**, and may return on day 6 if a COVID-19 test is NEGATIVE (home tests cannot be accepted) – **AND** – no symptoms reported. If an individual considered to be a close contact chooses not to be tested and has no symptoms, they must quarantine for 10 days.
- The test must be taken no earlier than day 5, and quarantine must continue through day 5 (return on day 6). As required by DHEC, masks must be worn through day 10.
- If symptoms are reported, the individual considered to be a close contact must quarantine through day 14.
- Students or staff who are not able to separate from a household member with COVID-19 must quarantine for at least 5 **additional** days after the infected person is no longer in isolation (a minimum of 10 days). The student or staff member may test on day 10 and return on day 11 if a COVID-19 test is NEGATIVE – **AND** – no symptoms reported.

### IF VACCINATED

- No quarantine required (as long as there are no symptoms related to COVID-19)
- DHEC recommends testing on day 5 (even if symptom-free). **Must wear mask days 1-10 at school.**
- DHEC requires all persons receive a booster if eligible to be considered fully vaccinated.

## ISOLATION:

for those who have tested positive for COVID-19

- Students and/or staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least **5 days** since symptoms started (return on day 6 at earliest) – **AND** –
- 24 hours since the last fever without using fever-reducing medication – **AND** –
- Symptoms have significantly improved (must have parent note confirming all criteria met).
- As required by DHEC, students and staff who choose to return after day 5 **must wear a mask for days 6-10.**

## TESTING INFORMATION:

- Testing will continue to be offered to all students and/or staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any students or staff who feel ill should immediately notify school staff and avoid contact with others.
- Parents will immediately be contacted by nursing staff should their child test positive.
- Anyone may visit <https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-testing-locations> to locate additional testing locations near you.

If you are considered to be a close contact but are "maximally" vaccinated or have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, you do not have to quarantine for any length of time. Maximally vaccinated (also known as "up-to-date"): a person who has completed their primary vaccine series of two doses of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or a single dose of Janssen vaccine, including an additional dose for an individual who is immunocompromised, and has had a booster shot if eligible. If maximally vaccinated or recently infected, masks will still be required during the quarantine dates.

Visit our website at [chester.k12.sc.us](https://chester.k12.sc.us) for more information.