



Frequently Asked Questions: Covid-19 Quarantines

When positive student or staff cases are reported to us, we often have to quarantine members of our Eagles Community. When this occurs, we always get many questions regarding how we determine who gets quarantined and what the process is... I wanted to take a moment to answer some of those frequently asked questions below to make sure all of our families are on the same page. Please keep in mind that the Macomb County Health Department directs all of our protocols.

Q. When a student or staff member tests positive, how do you determine who must quarantine?

A. When someone has Covid, they are considered to be contagious starting 48 hours before they become symptomatic, so we retrace their steps at school for the 48 hours BEFORE they started feeling ill and look at anyone who was within six feet of them for at least 15 minutes (over the course of a 24-hour period). We don't rely on memory. We keep tight seating charts for every place students go at Ike - classrooms, specials, cafeteria, band, special education services, intervention groups, SACC, the bus, etc. And then we look at all of those seating charts and measure to see who falls within that 6-foot radius in each location.

Q. Why can't you tell me who the sick person is?

A. Due to privacy laws, we cannot share details about who is ill. Just as you wouldn't want us to share that information with others if your child was sick, we will be respecting others' privacy, too.

Q. Most of the kids who are quarantining are in a different class, so why is my child quarantined, too?

A. As much as we try to keep classes separate from others, some cross-contact is unavoidable. Some children ride the bus with kids from other classes, may attend special education and intervention groups with those from other classes, may attend SACC with students from other classes, and all students are in the cafeteria with kids from other classes. And as families were told before we returned to in-person learning, keeping six feet of distance between students is often not possible.

Q. If my child is quarantined, and I get them tested for Covid, can they come back early if their result is Negative?

A. Unfortunately, no. Even if your child tests negative on day 4 or 6 or even 8 after their last exposure, they could still come down with it through day 14, which is why the quarantine still stands. Because of this, we only recommend you get your quarantined child tested if they develop symptoms.

Q. If one of my kids is quarantined, do I have to keep their siblings home, too?

A. No. If your child is in quarantine, they are simply a direct contact who is staying home as a precaution unless they develop symptoms. So the rest of your household doesn't need to quarantine; however, we do suggest that you try to keep your quarantining child away from the rest of your family in case they do become ill. If your child DOES develop any potential Covid symptoms, please keep your others home and get that child tested ASAP.

Q. My child is quarantined. Do I need to call him in each day for attendance?

A. Nope. We take care of that on our end.

Q. If my child is quarantined, can she join a virtual class during that time?

A. Unfortunately, in-person learners no longer have the option of virtual learning when they're not at school because their teacher is still teaching face-to-face all day. However, their teachers will work with you to make sure that they put all assignments/ activities on their daily itslearning page so students can access learning. They may also reach out to you with the option to come pick up packets of work. On some occasions, if the majority of a classroom needs to be quarantined, we may work with district administration to make the determination to move the entire class to virtual learning while the students are in quarantine.

Q. My child receives special education or intervention services, what happens with that while he's quarantined?

A. Our special education students will have the opportunity to get their usual minutes with their special education provider(s) virtually during the quarantine. Our intervention team will make every effort to connect with quarantined Tier 3 students as much as possible to support their learning, too.

A few more thoughts...

We know that no one likes to get the phone call that their child has been exposed and must quarantine. We understand that this is one more stressful hardship during such a tough year for families.

Unfortunately, with community spread at the level it's currently at in our area, we cannot always keep the virus out of schools. However, with our tight protocols in place, including mandatory quarantines, and YOUR help keeping your child home at ANY sign of possible illness, we are able to help mitigate the spread. Our entire staff - from the front office, to every teacher, custodian, and support staff member - is committed to doing all we can to keep our Eagles Community as safe and healthy as possible. We appreciate your cooperation and trust as we all try our best to navigate this together.