

This guidance serves as a process flow for schools so that a response to COVID-19 cases can be expedited. Schools should notify Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) when cases are identified, and different levels are implemented. Schools are expected to work through this process independent of SRHD.

1. Identification of confirmed/probable case who was infectious while in school.
2. General notification about case(s) in school to parents [Use *General Notification Letter template*].
3. Specific notification about case(s) in classroom(s) to advise of quarantine and/or symptom watch and/or testing recommendations [Use *Class Notification Letter template*].
4. School COVID-19 response team identifies close contacts and/or exposed students as outlined below, and quarantines exposed students/staff. School COVID-19 response team is responsible for drafting quarantine letters for students and their families [Use *Quarantine Letter template*].

Baseline Quarantine Recommendations:

SRHD recommends quarantine of all students in and outside the classroom deemed to be close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or more), including the case's siblings and any parents/guardians who work at the school.

- If there is no assigned seating in the classroom, all students who shared the classroom with the case while infectious should be quarantined for 14 days from last exposure.
- If students do not wear masks or facial coverings, adjacent students should be quarantined for 14 days from last exposure. *Note: breakfast/lunch is excluded from this rule as unmasked time should be as limited as possible.*
- SRHD is no longer requiring quarantine of adjacent students unless the conditions above are met.
- If two or more infectious cases are identified in the classroom or group (such as same bus route, athletic team, etc.) during two consecutive calendar weeks, regardless of epi-link or exposure source of those cases, the entire class/cohort should be quarantined for 14 days from last exposure.
- If county incidence rates are above 300 cases per 100K for two weeks, then SRHD recommends quarantine of siblings and/or staff parent/guardian of any student sent home for symptoms until a negative test result is obtained for that symptomatic student.
- **NEW (04/2021)** For bus exposures, follow [COVID-19 K-12 Bus Guidance](#).

Quarantine recommendations do not change based on face covering/mask usage of exposed individuals.

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UPDATED (04/2021) - Implementing Phased Approach for Increasing Incidence Rates:

High incidence rates or increasing case counts in the school may require a move to a **phased approach** for quarantine guidance:

Level 1 – Follow baseline recommendations.

- Close a classroom with 2 cases in the classroom.
- OR
- Test all students within a classroom 3 separate times. Classroom can stay open unless you have 4 students test positive for COVID-19, or known transmission is occurring within the classroom.
 1. Baseline: 1-2 days after positive case identified, and
 2. 5-7 days after case in classroom, and
 3. 12-14 days after case in classroom.

If parents/students do not want to participate in the testing protocol, then can participate in school but in an online format, and they should be excused for the full quarantine time of the classroom.

- Close a classroom when illness absenteeism rate is 40% for 3 consecutive days or enroll the classroom into the testing program above.

Level 2 – Stricter quarantine: all students who shared a classroom with a single case in the last 14 days.

- Close class for 14 days with a single case in the classroom
- OR
- Test all students within a classroom 3 separate times with one case, classroom can stay open unless you have 4 students test positive for COVID-19, or known transmission is occurring within the classroom.
 1. Baseline: 1-2 days after positive case identified, and
 2. 5-7 days after case in classroom, and
 3. 12-14 days after case in classroom.

If parents/students don't want to participate in the testing protocol, then they can participate in school but in an online format, and they should be excused for the full quarantine time of the classroom.

- Close a classroom if the illness absenteeism rate is 20% for 3 consecutive days in a classroom.
 - i. Class can continue if enrolled into the testing program described above.

Level 3 – Quarantine all students in the school.

- Close school for 14 days

Please refer to [K-12 School Testing Procedures & FAQs](#) for additional guidance

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Updated (04/2021) - Triggers for movement to a more restrictive level:

The calculation of a move to Level 2 or Level 3 will be based on two consecutive calendar weeks rather than a 14-day rolling period. Cases will be counted based on being infectious while in the building. If a case was quarantined and not in the building while infectious, they will not count towards the number required for quarantine of classrooms or movement to Level 2 or Level 3. Both student and staff cases should be considered in moving from Level 2 to Level 3 (teachers should be counted in classrooms).

Criteria to move to a different level:

Elementary Schools:

1. Move to Level 2 when there are cases in 1% of the school population AND 10% of classes (only classes, not other groups).
2. Move to Level 3 when there are 3% cases AND 20% of classes (only classes, not other groups) having cases.

Middle/High Schools:

1. Move to Level 2 when there are 1% cases AND 10% of classes (only classes, not other groups) having cases.
 2. Move to Level 3 when there are 2% cases AND 20% of classes (only classes, not other groups) having cases.
- Absenteeism rate for students ill with COVID-like symptoms with possible infectious risk in school:
 - a. Move to Level 2 when illness absenteeism rate is 7-12% for 3 consecutive days
 - b. Move to Level 3 when illness absenteeism rate is >12% for 3 consecutive days
 - Consider closing the building when one school compartment has been quarantined AND where there is school-based transmission with staff.

If a school needs to move to Level 2 or Level 3, it will be implemented on the following Monday. A move to Level 2 is not retroactive and will only impact future cases. The move to Level 2 or Level 3 is only for two weeks and will be re-evaluated at the end of the two-week period to either extend placement in that level or to move to a lower level.

Guidance for Moving Through Levels

It should be noted that there may be multiple “schools” within a building if there is a hybrid schedule where different cohorts attend schools on different days or time periods. Each of these schedules may be at a different level of quarantine restriction based on their own case numbers and case distribution. To be considered a distinct “school” or compartment there can be no overlap of hallways, lunch areas or socialization.

While our intention with this guidance document is that school staff can implement control measures independently, SRHD recognizes that this guidance may not be a one-size-fits-all solution.

SRHD Epidemiology staff are available for consultation to provide guidance on which students and staff to quarantine under special circumstances and when it may be appropriate to move to more restrictive quarantine measures. SRHD Epidemiology can be reached at 509-324-1442 or education@srhd.org.