

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. **NEW** Schools are expected to work through this process independent of SRHD.

Schools will be responsible for:

1. Identification and subsequent reporting to public health of confirmed/probable cases who were infectious while in school. (A probable case is someone symptomatic who had close contact with a confirmed case.)
2. General notification about case(s) in school to parents [Use *General Notification Letter template*].
3. Specific notification about cases in classrooms 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 response team is responsible for drafting quarantine letters for students and their families [Use *Quarantine Letter template*].

Quarantine Recommendations

Baseline recommendations:

- Quarantine close contacts of all COVID cases. Close contacts are defined as someone who was within 6 feet for ≥ 15 minutes (cumulative or continuous), as well as siblings of the case.
- 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.
- **UPDATED** 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.*
- **NEW** SRHD is no longer requiring quarantine of adjacent students unless the conditions above are met.
- **UPDATED** 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.
- **NEW** 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.
- For bus exposures, SRHD recommends quarantining students who were seated on both sides of the aisle within one row behind and two rows in front of the ill student.

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

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
- Level 2 – quarantine all students who shared a classroom with a single case in the last 14 days
- Level 3 – quarantine all students in the school

Front of Bus			
Q	Q	Q	Q
Q	Q	Q	Q
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Q	Q	Q	Q

There may be multiple cohorts 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 cohort there can be no overlap of hallways, lunch areas or socialization.

Triggers for movement to a more restrictive level

NEW 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:

1. Absolute number of cases in each school:
 - a. Move to Level 2 when there are 3 cases OR 1% of student population, whichever is higher, AND 10% of classes having cases.
 - b. **UPDATED** Move to Level 3 when there are 6 cases OR 1.5% of student population, whichever is higher, AND 20% of classes having cases.
2. Illness absenteeism number representing students ill with COVID symptoms with possible infectious risk in school
 - a. Move to Level 2 when illness absenteeism rate is 7-12% for three consecutive days.
 - b. Move to Level 3 when illness absenteeism rate is >12% for three consecutive days.
3. Increases in community spread of COVID in Spokane County
 - Consider moving to Level 3 when COVID incidence exceeds 150 per 100,000 population over the current two-week period.
 - Consider closing the building when one school compartment has been quarantined AND where there is school-based transmission with staff.
 - Consider closing the building when there is school-based transmission in multiple settings or if there is a super-spreading event of 10 or more students/staff. These events are evidence that current procedures are not adequate to provide a safe environment for students/staff.

NEW 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

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.

* Non-cohort groups are defined as students mixing beyond one small group, such as middle school students rotating to different classes with different students throughout the day. This would also include students who mix for PE, recess, lunchtime, etc.