

COVID-19 Close Contacts in Child Care/School Settings

CDC Definition of a close contact: A [close contact](#) is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Close contacts must be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19. Symptomatic close contacts should be referred to a health care provider for testing. Asymptomatic close contacts should be tested, ideally 7 – 10 days after last exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

The following list of potential close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19 is not all inclusive. Additional individuals may be considered close contacts depending on the setting, type of contact, or situation.

Child Care:

- Children/staff in the same room/cohort as a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- If a case in a staff member or child “floats” between rooms, then children/staff in each room will be considered close contacts unless the investigation indicates contact is less than 15 minutes or greater than six feet.

Elementary School:

- Children sitting in desks in front of, behind, or next to the confirmed case.
- Children sitting at the same table as the confirmed case.
- If children are cohorted or in pods, then the entire cohort or pod.
- Children eating lunch at the same table as the confirmed case.
- Children participating in extracurricular activities with the confirmed case.
- Children participating in close contact sports or physical education with the confirmed case.
- Children participating in choir or band with the confirmed case.
- Staff who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
- If children routinely mix/interact with each other in the classroom setting, then the entire classroom will be considered close contacts.
- Children sitting next to, in front of, or behind a case on a bus.

- Children carpooling to school with a case.
- Family members living in the same household as a case.
- If unable to identify close contacts of a case in a classroom or other (gym, dining hall, sporting venues, etc.) setting, the school should send out alerts to others in the same classroom to watch for symptoms and contact a health care provider if symptoms develop.

Middle/High School:

- Children sitting in desks in front of, behind, or next to the confirmed case.
- Children sitting at the same table as the confirmed case.
- Children eating lunch at the same table as the confirmed case.
- Children participating in extracurricular activities with the confirmed case.
- Children participating in close contact sports or physical education with the confirmed case.
- Children participating in choir or band with the confirmed case.
- Staff who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
- Close friends of a confirmed case.
- Children sitting next to, in front of or behind a case on a bus.
- Children carpooling to school with a case.
- Family members living in the same household as a case.
- If unable to identify close contacts of a case in a classroom or other (gym, dining hall, sporting venues, etc.) setting, the school should send out alerts to others in the same classroom to watch for symptoms and contact a health care provider if symptoms develop.

University:

- Roommates of a confirmed case.
- Students sitting within six feet of a case in a classroom or other setting.
- Students participating in extracurricular activities with the confirmed case.
- Students participating in close contact sports or physical education with the confirmed case.
- Students participating in choir or band with the confirmed case.
- Staff who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
- Close friends of a confirmed case.
- Co-workers who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
- Family members living in the same household as a case.
- If unable to identify close contacts of a case in a classroom or other (gym, dining hall, sporting venues, etc.) setting, University should send out alerts to others in the same classroom to watch for symptoms and contact a health care provider if symptoms develop.