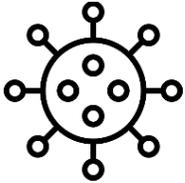# COVID-19 at School

Guide for administrators, COVID-19 coordinators, and school nurses when someone with COVID-19 was at your school while infectious

This is a quick, not comprehensive, guide for when someone with COVID-19 was in your school while they were infectious (contagious). There are many illnesses that can have symptoms like COVID-19, but only people who **test positive on a lab test** are considered to have COVID-19. The **infectious period** starts two days before any symptoms began (or for people who did not have symptoms, two days before they got tested) and continues until they recover. The Health Department will work closely with your school to provide guidance, help identify close contacts, and help with school closure decisions.

How will I know if someone was at my school while they were infectious?

1 A contact tracing team member from the Health Department contacts everyone who tests positive to provide information about the illness and how to stop it from spreading. The contact tracer will ask questions about their activities and who they have come into contact with. They determine when the person was infectious based on their symptoms or when they got tested.

2 Then, if someone was in your school while they were infectious, **the Health Department will reach out to school administrators**. You may hear this directly from a parent/caregiver or staff member, and you may receive information before the Health Department contacts you.

What is close contact?

Contact tracers reach out to identified close contacts with information about the illness, testing, and staying home. Close contact means being within 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more, of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 during their infectious period, whether or not masks were worn.

Take action if someone was in your school while infectious:

- Make a list of the locations in the school where the person who tested positive was for more than 15 minutes, like classrooms, offices, etc.
- Increase ventilation and air circulation to these areas through opening doors and windows or using ventilation fans.
- Close off these areas and do not use them until after cleaning and disinfecting. Wait at least 24 hours after the person has last been in them before cleaning, or as long as feasible.
- Make a line list of students and staff who have been in close contact with the person who tested positive to help keep track of people who may have been exposed.
- Communicate with parents and caregivers with information about the situation.
- Anyone who tests positive should not return to school until they have completed home isolation.
- Any close contacts of someone who tests positive should not return to school until they have completed quarantine.

For questions or concerns about COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, call 802-863-7240.

For more information: healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

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