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Quarantine After COVID-19 Vaccination (Updated: 7/30/21)

As schools resume in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year, COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing in the school setting are effective strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools. See Maricopa County's [Isolation](#) and [Quarantine](#) Guidance for additional information.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) follow CDC guidelines and define a close contact of a COVID-19 case as being any person "within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 while infectious for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of whether masks were worn." **[Exception: in the K-12 school setting, a student who was within 3-6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks at all times. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the classroom setting.]**

Students, staff, and educators who are close contacts of someone who has COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated (or have not tested positive for and recovered from COVID-19 in the prior 3 months) must quarantine away from others for up to 10 days following their last exposure per MCDPH. **Importantly, per CDC, ADHS, and MCDPH, all close contacts who have been fully vaccinated (starting 2 weeks after the final COVID-19 vaccine dose) do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms.** In other words, if identified as a close contact, the need to quarantine depends on a person's COVID-19 vaccination status and/or COVID-19 infection history. MCDPH recommends that close contacts be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days following their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status.

Close contacts who must quarantine need to be excluded from school and extracurricular activities during their quarantine period. The duration of quarantine is either 10 full days or 7 full days following their last exposure, as long as a COVID-19 test performed on day 6 or 7 is negative and the contact has no symptoms. If a staff member or an educator is determined to be a close contact who must quarantine and they are considered to be an essential worker (as designated by the school), they can continue to work during their quarantine period if they do not have any symptoms and wear a mask while working. Please see the [Quarantine](#) Guidance on the MCDPH website for more detailed information.

Please note: regardless of vaccination status or prior infection, anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must begin isolation.

For schools to exclude close contacts who must quarantine from the facility, schools should request a person's COVID-19 vaccination status and/or history of COVID-19 infection in the last 3 months. If a close contact is not fully vaccinated or has an undetermined vaccination status and does not have a history of previous COVID-19 infection, the close contact must quarantine per Public Health.

School options for requesting vaccination status and/or history of prior COVID-19 infection:

1. **Advance reporting:** Staff, educators and guardians may be asked to confirm vaccination status and/or history of COVID-19 infection in advance. When a COVID-19 investigation occurs, the vaccination status and/or history of prior infection will already be known.
2. **Reporting as needed:** Staff, educators and guardians are NOT asked to confirm vaccination status and/or history of prior infection in advance. When a COVID-19 investigation occurs, all persons identified as close contacts may be asked to confirm their vaccination status and/or history of COVID-19 infection in the past 90 days.

Please note: schools may not require proof of vaccination for staff, educators and guardians.

After a COVID-19 case investigation, all identified close contacts who do not have symptoms and are fully vaccinated or have had a documented COVID-19 infection within 90 days should be notified of their close contact status but will NOT need to be quarantined by Public Health. They should monitor themselves for symptoms and if they develop symptoms, isolate and be tested for COVID-19.

After a COVID-19 case investigation, if a close contact is **not** fully vaccinated or has **an undetermined/unknown** vaccination status and does not have a history of COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days, they must quarantine per Public Health. They should monitor themselves for symptoms and if they develop symptoms, isolate and be tested for COVID-19.