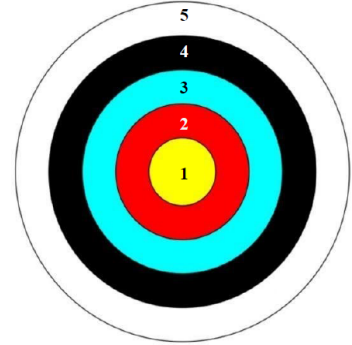


NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROCEDURE COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING IN THE SCHOOL SETTING (9/2021)

A Message from the School Nurses

Definitions and procedures subject to change with updated guidance from CDC, NJDOH, and the local Departments of Health

When a SOMSD staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, it is the responsibility of that staff member or the parent of the student to notify the principal who notifies the superintendent. The respective local Department of Health (DOH) – South Orange or Maplewood - will be notified immediately. The local DOH, who receives the actual lab report, conducts Contact Tracing. Based on the circumstances of each case, the local DOH provides the District with guidance as to the appropriate and timely notification of staff and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.



Here are some definitions and procedures to summarize the response to COVID+ activity in the school community and school notification procedures. The steps below will be associated with the bull's eye above for clarity.

Let us begin with the positive case in the yellow center.

Step #	Explanation of Steps
1) Case investigation of a Confirmed Case (~yellow circle): Conducted with DOH consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Confirmed Case is an individual with confirmed positive laboratory evidence for COVID-19. (Lab sends result to DOH of town of residence and positive individual notifies school principal; in addition, positive individual please contact local DOH if they have not heard from them within 24 hours of lab result.) Positive individual may be contacted by their local DOH, and/or school nurse, and/or school administrator, based on the circumstances of each case. Confirmed Case begins Isolation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick (Keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others - in their home, ideally in a separate room from other household members) Presently, Isolation can be discontinued 10 days after the date of positive test collection or symptom onset (whichever is first) AND resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND with improvement of other symptoms. If the Confirmed Case has no symptoms but tests positive, isolation can be discontinued 10 days after the date of test collection if the person continues to have no symptoms.

<p>2) Contact Tracing for Close Contacts in School (~red circle): Conducted with DOH consult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Close Contact is any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting 48 hours before the infected person's +test collection date or 48 hours before the start of infected person's symptoms whichever is first (pre-symptomatic time). • If the positive individual was in school in-person during the pre-symptomatic time, then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools help the DOH by pulling class lists, assigned staff, and daily attendance. ○ Close Contacts (affected students and staff) receive notification via email from the school principal "COVID-19 School Notification Quarantine: Close Contact of Positive Case in School." ○ If no school Close Contacts are identified, then this notification is not sent. • Close Contacts begin Quarantine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. (Keeps someone who <u>might have been exposed</u> to the virus away from others - in their home.) ○ Quarantine time depends on COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) score and DOH guidance. ○ Only Close Contacts of the positive case are asked to quarantine.
<p>3) Acknowledgement of Casual Contacts in School (Contacts of a Close Contact) ~blue circle: Conducted with DOH consult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Casual Contact is any individual who may have been in the same space or building or venue as someone infectious with COVID-19 (or during the pre-symptomatic time), but not close enough or for long enough to be considered a Close Contact. • If the Confirmed Case was in school in-person during the pre-symptomatic time, then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Casual Contacts receive notification via email from the school principal "School Notification: Positive Case in School." ○ If no school Casual Contacts are identified, then this notification is not sent. ○ Casual Contacts may return to school and continue practicing our SOMSD mitigating strategies which include wearing masks, hand hygiene, social distancing, and monitor temperature and symptoms daily.
<p>To continue the bull's eye analogy, the outer two rings represent other actions taken and communication to the community:</p>	
<p>4) Dashboard (~black circle):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive individuals (no names) will be added to the SOMSD Dashboard on Friday under individuals' schools. Weekly

	numbers reflect virtual/hybrid/staff/student to protect individuals' confidentiality.
5) School Closure if indicated (white circle)	<p>Closure is a local decision to be made by District administrators in consultation with the local DOH. The COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Score (low, medium, high, very high) along with the number of in-person cases in 14 days within a school and the relationship of those cases to each other will be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NJDOH allows a temporary closure for a period of 2-5 days to allow for time for the local DOH to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. (NJDOH. January 2021. <i>Covid-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.</i>) ○ School community receives notification via email from the superintendent "COVID-19 School Notification: SCHOOL CLOSURE due to Positive Cases in School."

The school nurses work with administration and the DOH Officers to reinforce NJDOH recommendations which are informed by CDC guidance. We appreciate our community's support and cooperation. Please continue to assist us in dealing with this health concern. Thank you to all who have been vigilant in staying home if you are sick, and in notifying the school district if you have a positive case or been identified as a close contact.

Be vigilant. Be well.