

**Back To School
COVID 19 Guidance**

Updated: December 27, 2021



I. When would I need to possibly quarantine?

July 29, 2021 Update CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

*Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. **People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.** However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.*

The [CDC guidance](#) adds the following **exception** to the definition of close contact:

- In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:
 - **both** students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and
 - other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.
- **This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.**
- **Wearing a face shield does not offer this same exception.**

([CDC](#)): Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated.

People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

[DOH HAN Document](#)

(IU 20 on CDC) Decision Chart: [Close Contact Quarantine Recommendations \(1\).pdf](#)

II. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

February 22, 2021 CDC Update:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

PA Department of Health site information on symptom screening:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Symptoms-Testing.aspx>

III. If I am positive - how long must I quarantine?

Updated December 27, 2021:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

Updated PAHAN 607:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2021-607-10-25-Updated%20PH%20Recomm.pdf>

See PAHAN 518:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2020-PAHAN-518-07-20-UPD%20-Interim%20Gu.pdf>

As of December 4, 2020, options for reducing quarantine from 14 days to 10 days, or to 7 days with a negative test on day 5, day 6, or day 7 have been provided. Please see PAHAN 538 for more information.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2020-PAHAN-538-12-4-ALT%20-%20Updated%20Quarantine%20Recommendations%20for%20Persons%20Exposed%20to%20COVID-19.pdf>

Symptomatic Cases - Symptom onset is Day 0

Asymptomatic Cases - Positive Test Date is Day 0 (See PHAN 518)

IV. How long must I quarantine if I am a contact?

December 27, 2021 Updated CDC Guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

(Are you vaccinated or Not?)

Contact your family doctor (with school nurse) or the Department Health at 1 877 PA HEALTH for guidance.

If my contact was a non household member:

Case Response Definitions (continued)

- Quarantine for Non-Household Contact
 - ▀ Please note that exposure date is Day 0

If you are able to live completely separate from the person in your house with COVID-19 follow the non-household contact timeframe. Living separate from your housemate means no contact, no time together in the same room, and no sharing of any spaces such as a bathroom or bedroom.

IF YOUR COVID-19 CONTACT DOES NOT LIVE WITH YOU

NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

ONE STEP

QUARANTINE FROM DATE OF LAST CLOSE CONTACT

REMAIN IN QUARANTINE THROUGH THIS DATE

DO NOT END QUARANTINE IF SICK

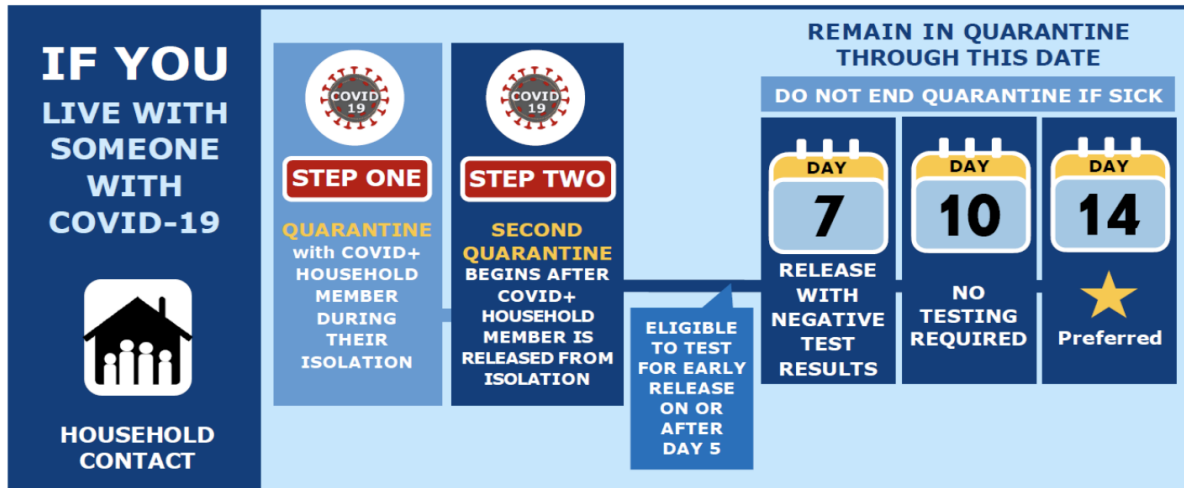
DAY	DAY	DAY
7	10	14
RELEASE WITH NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS	NO TESTING REQUIRED	Preferred

ELIGIBLE TO TEST FOR EARLY RELEASE ON OR AFTER DAY 5

If my contact was a household member?

Case Response Definitions (continued)

- Quarantine for Household Contact
 - Please note that most recent exposure date (end of case's infectious period) is Day 0. Household contact quarantines are 17-24 days.



V. Does MCA have a screening tool?

Yes. This should be used by all parents and guardians daily before sending their child to school -

<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MCA-DAILY-SCREENING-TOOL.pdf>

Students and staff should stay home if they are sick and as always - speak with their health care provider.

VI. How will MCA notify the learning community of positive COVID cases?

MCA will update our COVID positive tracker in real time. The tracker is found on our main school district website. Any student or staff member that is suspected of possibly being a close contact will be notified immediately by district administration or nursing staff.

MCA COVID TRACKER

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1R87unW8mPICOrejUuef2Ln9wwaqlsAe0ZXATv53uDRw/edit#gid=747987204>

VII. If I want to get vaccinated, where can I find a location to do so?

PA DOH Website:

<https://www.pa.gov/guides/get-vaccinated/#Step2ContactAProviderToScheduleAnAppointment>

VIII. What is MCA's position on masking in schools?

- *MCA moved to require masks to be worn by all students and staff, during school hours, starting on August 31, 2021.*
- *The following day the following order was issued by the state of Pennsylvania:*
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Order%20of%20the%20Acting%20Secretary%20Directing%20Face%20Coverings%20in%20Schools.pdf>

IX. Is wearing masks on school buses mandatory?

Yes, this is a federal order. School buses are deemed public transportation as per TSA. All individuals on buses must wear masks at this time. Attached is the federal order:
[Mask Order](#).

CDC Order: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>