

## **COVID-19 Notification Q&A**

**Q: What happens when a child is showing any possible COVID-19 symptoms in class?**

**A:** Students will be referred to the school nurse for further assessment. Nurses will follow the DHEC school exclusion list regarding symptoms for when to send children home.

**Q: Will the school require that a child who has symptoms be tested for COVID-19?**

**A:** Schools do not have the authority to force COVID-19 testing for any child. Charleston County Schools is pursuing authorization for school nurses to conduct non-invasive, rapid COVID-19 testing as soon as these tests become more readily available.

**Q: If a family can't afford a test, how is that child supported in getting tested?**

**A:** There is no out-of-pocket expense for DHEC, Fetter Healthcare and MUSC public testing sites at this time. Some emergent care and private offices may have administrative fees attached to services. DHEC, Fetter, and MUSC all established additional test sites at the request of the school district.

**Q: If a child tests positive in a class, are the parents of all children in that class notified that there has been a positive case and possible exposure at school?**

**A:** When any district employee learns that a student or co-worker has tested positive, the following steps will be taken:

- The school notifies District Nursing Services who notifies DHEC.
- Contact tracing begins, typically same day, to determine those persons who have been within 6 feet for 15 minutes of the positive individual.
- Those individuals and/or parents will be notified that they have been in close contact and must quarantine away from school. The notification will be through a personal phone call and email from the school.
- Notification will be for close contact individuals only. No phone and no email means NO close contact for those individuals.
- Facilities Management Department will complete necessary cleaning, sanitizing.
- The District will also provide a dashboard updated daily Monday-Friday showing the number of positive COVID-19 cases by school.

**Q: If a child is out for quarantine, are they automatically placed into the temp remote option during that time? How is the child supported academically?**

**A:** The child is welcome to participate in a temporary remote option, if courses the student is taking are offered online and s/he feels well enough to do so. This would be worked out on a case-by-case basis with the student's school.

**Q: What is the plan if county COVID-19 numbers were to increase during the Fall?**

**A:** Decisions regarding the operation of schools on a countywide basis will be made by the CCSD Board of Trustees. Decisions regarding the operation of individual schools due to the

outbreak of any illness are made on a case-by-case basis using DHEC guidelines in consultation with state and local officials. The Governor also has the authority to close schools in an emergency.

**Q: What if a teacher becomes ill or needs to quarantine due to a possible COVID-19 exposure?**

**A:** The notification process would be the same to parents as if a student tests positive. Parents of students who have been in close contact with the positive teacher would be notified and required to quarantine away from school. As for teacher absences due to COVID-19, a great deal of work has been done to line up and train substitute teachers to fill in either in-person or remotely.