

Prentiss County School District

Guidance on the Control of COVID-19 in the K-12 School Setting

PCSD Guidance for Positive Cases of COVID-19

In accordance with the Mississippi Department of Health and The Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations, The Prentiss County School District will follow the guidance listed below in regards to positive cases of COVID-19:

- Regardless of vaccination status, individuals displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not report to school or remain in the school setting. These individuals should isolate and be tested for COVID-19.
- Regardless of vaccination status, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are to be excluded from the school setting and remain in Isolation for a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive test date and are fever free for 24 hours (or excluded for 10 days from the date of the test if asymptomatic).
- Asymptomatic individuals with a positive rapid COVID-19 test who have a negative molecular based Covid-19 test within 48 hours of the rapid positive do not require further exclusion and may return to the school setting. This only applies to molecular based tests as the confirmatory testing (i.e., PCR) and does not include antigen tests or antibody tests.

PCSD Guidance for Close Contact to COVID-19

In accordance with the Mississippi Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations, The Prentiss County School District will follow the guidance listed below in regards to close contact to COVID-19.

- COVID-19 Exposure Definition: The current definition of exposure to COVID-19 remains 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period at <6 feet. An infected person can spread COVID-19 up to 2 days before they have symptoms or 2 days prior to a positive test if they have no symptoms. *Therefore, contacts should be identified who were exposed up to 2 days prior to onset of symptoms or test date accordingly.*
- Fully vaccinated individuals and those that have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.
- Unvaccinated individuals that are exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 will quarantine and should get tested 3-5 days after exposure.
- In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, students that are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person do not have to quarantine where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks.
- If an unvaccinated individual is identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 within the same household, they must quarantine for a

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minimum of 10 days. If the close contact develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, he or she must quarantine for a full 14 days.

Quarantine Period

The Mississippi Department of Health recommends that students, teachers, and staff members who are not fully vaccinated and are identified as close contacts to COVID-19 quarantine for a full 14 days. There are additional options to the 14-day quarantine period from the school setting as follows:

- **10-Day Option:** Individual may end quarantine 10 days after exposure or positive test date if the individual is not displaying symptoms.
 - o Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded from the school setting and remain in Isolation for a full ten days from the onset of symptoms and fever free for 24 hours.
 - o Close contact and not positive – May end the quarantine if he or she has not developed any symptoms during the 10-day quarantine period.

THE PCSD HAS ELECTED TO NOT USE THE 7-DAY OPTION AT THIS TIME.

- **7-Day Option: (Negative test results required)**
 - o Close contact has not developed any symptoms during the 7-day quarantine.
 - o Close contact completed a molecular or antigen based COVID-19 test on Day 5, 6, or 7 and test results were negative (tests prior to day 5 are not acceptable).
 - o 7 day minimum quarantine is required (regardless of when test results are received).
 - o Negative test results must be presented to the school administration after Day 7.
 - o It is the responsibility of the parent to provide the school with the necessary documentation. If not, the quarantine must continue.

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Outbreaks and School Dismissal Considerations

The Prentiss County School District will follow the Mississippi Department of Health's recommendations when considering school closure. The decision to close school due to COVID-19 will be made by the Prentiss County Superintendent of Education and The Prentiss County School Board.

Outbreaks: An outbreak is defined as 3 or more cases of COVID-19 in a classroom or group (sports team, group activity, or other) within 14 days.

School Dismissal Considerations: The school may consider dismissal of the entire student/faculty under the following conditions:

- o If 3 or more individual classrooms settings, defined groups, or defined buildings are experiencing simultaneous outbreaks, or
- o If multiple absentees or exclusions of students and staff are leading to disruptions in on-campus functioning and impacting the learning environment as determined by the school.
- o If decided upon, dismissal should be for at least 14 days to interrupt transmission.