

**Nettleton School District**  
**COVID-19 Quarantine Protocols**  
**August 2, 2021**

**The quarantine protocols for the Nettleton School District are adapted from the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) recommendations that were released on July 30, 2021. The full version of the MDH 7/30/21 recommendations can be found at [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/resources/14912.pdf](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/14912.pdf)**

Vaccination remains the primary health prevention strategy to end transmission and allow for safe participation of in-person classes and school sponsored extracurricular activities. NSD continues to promote COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible students, teachers and staff. The overwhelming majority of cases, hospitalizations and deaths are among unvaccinated persons, though there have been some infections, hospitalizations and deaths seen in fully vaccinated persons. Some fully vaccinated persons who become infected may be contagious.

As school begins, the state health department anticipates numerous cases and outbreaks in the school setting, which may lead to disruptions in both in-person classes and extracurricular activities. Students benefit from in- person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction continues to be our priority.

**Physical Distancing**

Nettleton School District will continue to maintain appropriate physical distancing between students in classroom settings, combined with other mitigation strategies to reduce transmission risk.

**Infected Individuals and Isolation Period**

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from the school setting and remain in isolation for a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours (or excluded for 10 days from the date of the test if asymptomatic).

**Contact Identification (Exposed Individuals)**

NSD will continue contract tracing to identify all individuals who are in close contact to COVID-19 within the school setting or in extracurricular activities.

Fully vaccinated persons in close contact with an infected person do NOT have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.



## Quarantine Period

Students, teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated and are identified as close contacts to COVID-19, should be in 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 - Quarantine can end after 10 days if the individual has no symptoms during the entire 10 day period, or
- 7 Day plus Test Option - If the individual has no symptoms for 7 days and has a negative test collected on days 5, 6, or 7, of the quarantine period, the quarantine period can be discontinued after 7 days (the student, teacher or staff member could return on day 8).
- **Fully vaccinated students and teacher/staff do not require quarantine after contact to an infected person, unless they develop symptoms.**

## Outbreaks and School Dismissal Considerations

An outbreak is defined as 3 or more cases of COVID-19 in a classroom or group (sports team, group activity, band or other) within 14 days. In an outbreak setting, quarantine and exclusion from the school setting is recommended for all unvaccinated exposed persons in the outbreak group.

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

- If 3 or more individual classroom settings, defined groups, or defined buildings are experiencing simultaneous outbreaks, or
- 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.
- If decided upon, dismissal should be for at least 14 days to interrupt transmission.

## Exclusion When Sick

All students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of any infectious illness, regardless of vaccination status, should stay home from school and consider evaluation by their healthcare provider. Students, teachers and staff should be symptom free and fever free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

**\*\*Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) COVID-19 Case Letter and COVID-19 Close Contact Letter are attached. During the course of this school year, your child may bring home one of these letters. In the event your child is to be excluded, we will attempt to contact you by phone to convey this information.**





MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## COVID-19 Case letter Guidance for Individuals with COVID-19 in the School Setting

Dear Parent/Teacher/Staff member,

You have reported to the school that you or your child have recently tested positive for COVID-19. Please see the following instructions:

- You or your child may not return to the school setting until 10 days from the day your symptoms started. If you or your child had no symptoms, you may not return until 10 days from the date of the positive test.
- The individual who tested positive should remain isolated at home for the 10-day period. Stay away from all persons at your home. Do not leave your house, or come in contact with anyone, including the people you live with.
- If you do have household contacts, you must limit exposure to them. Stay in a specific room away from others in your home. Additional CDC guidance may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>.
- After 10 days you must also be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) with improvement of symptoms prior to returning to school.
- During the 10-day isolation period your child may not participate in any extracurricular school activities or sports.
- A negative test will not be required prior to return to school as long as the above criteria are met.
- A note from your physician is not required for return to school.

For additional information please see:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Mississippi State Department of Health [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,0,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html)



## Notification/Guidance for Close Contacts to COVID-19 in the School Setting

Dear Parent/Teacher/Staff,

You or your child have been identified as a close contact to a case of COVID-19 in the school setting. A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes or greater (cumulative) while the COVID-19 infected person is contagious. The contagious period is 48 hours before to 10 days after symptoms started (or 48 hours before to 10 days after test if there were no symptoms). Based on this close contact the following instructions are provided.

For 14 days\* following potential exposure, you, or your child:

- Will be excluded from the school setting for a minimum of 14 days after last exposure to the case of COVID-19.
- Should remain quarantined at home for 14 days after your (or your child's) last exposure to the case.
- Are instructed to get tested for COVID-19 following your exposure, even if you do not have symptoms. MSDH maintains a list of testing sites on the website at [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,21912,420,874.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,21912,420,874.html). (Please let your provider know that you have been exposed before you go in for testing.)
- Should monitor for symptoms and take your (or your child's) temperature twice a day for a minimum of 14 days from your last exposure.
  - If at any point your (or your child's) temperature is 100°F or more, feel like you are developing fever, or start having any of the symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath or a new loss of taste or smell) contact your healthcare provider for evaluation and retesting if indicated.
- May return to school following the 14-day quarantine and school exclusion period if no symptoms develop.

Students, teachers, and staff who are not fully vaccinated and are identified as close contacts to COVID-19 should be in **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: Quarantine can end after 10 days if the individual has no symptoms during the entire 10-day period, or
- 7- day plus test option: If the individual has no symptoms for 7 days and has a negative COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) result collected on day 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period, the quarantine period can be discontinued quarantine after 7 days.
- ***Fully vaccinated persons in close contact with an infected person do NOT have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms (fully vaccinated persons are recommended to receive COVID-19 testing 3-5 days after exposure to rule out infection).***
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

For additional information please see:



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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Mississippi State Department of Health [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,0,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html)
- CDC considerations for reducing quarantine time. See [Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing | CDC](#) for full guidance.