

CLOSE CONTACT NOTIFICATION PROCESS



What is a close contact?

A close contact is defined by the CDC as someone who was within six feet of a person infected with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes, starting from two days before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated. This means the close contact has possibly been exposed to the virus and will be required to quarantine to monitor for symptoms.

How will I know if my child is a close contact? How will I know if I have been exposed as a staff member?

Anyone determined to be a close contact will receive a personal phone call from their school administration and separate email notification with further instructions. If you are not directly contacted about you/your child being a close contact, then you/your child have not been identified as a close contact and will not need to quarantine.

If I/my child is sent home as a close contact, do other members of our family need to quarantine?

No. The person identified as a close contact should quarantine, but the rest of the family may continue activities as normal. This is because the other members of the family would be considered a “contact of a contact,” meaning they have not been directly exposed to the virus. However, if the close contact individual begins experiencing symptoms or becomes lab-confirmed, the contact of a contact should begin quarantine and get tested.

How will I know if there is a COVID-positive case on campus?

When lab-confirmed cases are reported to the district, all staff and parents at the affected school will receive an emailed notification once contact tracing is complete. Due to state and federal privacy requirements, the name or details that may identify the individual cannot be released. The district also manages a site-by-site COVID tracking tool to provide our community with a summary of active case counts in our schools. This dashboard is updated each school day by 5 pm and represents the most accurate tracking of the COVID impact in EMS ISD.

HOW TO DETERMINE CLOSE CONTACT VERSUS CONTACT OF A CONTACT

