



December 9, 2020

EMS ISD Families and Employees,

We have an important update for you today regarding our COVID-19 protocols. Today, Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) issued new guidance that reduces quarantine time for individuals identified as close contacts. Under the new guidance, the required quarantine period for close contacts who remain asymptomatic is reduced from 14 days to 10 days.

These changes by Tarrant County Public Health follow guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that provides for the alternate quarantine timeframe and charges local public health authorities with establishing quarantine options for their jurisdictions.

In continued partnership with TCPH, EMS ISD is adjusting current protocols to incorporate the new local guidance for close contact quarantine. Beginning today, those individuals who are identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case may now return to school or work after 10 days of quarantine without testing, if no symptoms develop during the quarantine period. Individuals may still choose to quarantine for the entire 14 days if desired.

Students and employees who currently are under a 14-day quarantine as a close contact *and* are not experiencing any symptoms also may reduce their quarantine period to 10 days. Please consult your close contact letter from the school/district and reference the chart below for your new return date.

Date of Exposure	Original Return-to-School Date	New Return-to-School Date
November 30, 2020	Tuesday, December 15, 2020	Friday, December 11, 2020
December 1, 2020	Wednesday, December 16, 2020	Monday, December 14, 2020 (Quarantine End Date Dec. 12)
December 2, 2020	Thursday, December 17, 2020	Monday, December 14, 2020 (Quarantine End Date Dec. 13)
December 3, 2020	Friday, December 18, 2020	Monday, December 14, 2020
December 4, 2020	Monday, January 4, 2021	Tuesday, December 15, 2020
December 5, 2020	Monday, January 4, 2021	Wednesday, December 16, 2020
December 6, 2020	Monday, January 4, 2021	Thursday, December 17, 2020
December 7, 2020	Monday, January 4, 2021	Friday, December 18, 2020
December 8, 2020	Monday, January 4, 2021	Monday, January 4, 2021 (Quarantine End Date Dec. 19)
December 9, 2020	Monday, January 4, 2021	Monday, January 4, 2021 (Quarantine End Date Dec. 20)

If the close contact or any individual in the home begins to experience symptoms of COVID-19 at any time during the quarantine period, please isolate immediately and contact your physician. Any positive test results should be **reported to your campus** or, if after hours/weekends, through the [online reporting form](#) in the Let's Talk system on the EMS ISD website.

Individuals who meet criteria to return to activities after the 10-day quarantine should continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for the entire 14-day incubation period. TCPH reiterates that wearing a face covering/mask over both the nose and mouth and practicing social distancing of 6 or more feet are essential to preventing transmission to others, as some COVID-positive individuals may be asymptomatic. Frequent hand washing/sanitizing is also strongly recommended.

We are currently working to update our district website and COVID-19 materials to reflect the 10-day quarantine option. As always, please contact your campus administrator if you have any questions regarding our COVID-19 protocols, prevention measures, or quarantine requirements.

District leaders will continue to monitor our local cases closely and, after the Winter Break, will review the quarantine timeframe in coordination with TCPH to see if further adjustments are recommended. We appreciate your continued support of EMS ISD's efforts to keep our students and employees safe, and your partnership in working to reduce the potential for further spread of COVID-19 in our community.