

Update to FAQ 12/8/20

ASYMPTOMATIC CLOSE CONTACTS IN THE SCHOOL SETTING -Beginning 12/9/2020

The CDC and the Florida Department of Health continue to recommend quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure. However, there is new guidance that allows for a close contact to return to school earlier. There are two options that may allow the close contact to return to school/work before the full 14-day quarantine period has been met:

1. The quarantine period may be shortened to **10** days from last exposure to the positive case if **daily symptom monitoring indicates the close contact remains symptom free**. The contact can return to school or work on Day 11. **HOWEVER**, it is extremely important that the contact continues daily monitoring for signs and symptoms **through 14 days**, as well as, practice social distancing, **always** wears a mask, and washes hands frequently. If signs or symptoms develop at any point, the contact should immediately isolate, seek medical care, and call the Health Department.
2. The Quarantine may be shortened to as few as **7** days if a negative **PCR** test result is obtained on **day 6 or later from exposure to the positive case**. A PCR test is required and a rapid antigen test CANNOT be substituted. The test must be collected on day 6 or after, and if it is negative, the contact can return on Day 8 of quarantine, if he or she remains symptom free. **HOWEVER**, it is extremely important that the contact continues daily monitoring for signs and symptoms **through 14 days**, as well as, practice social distancing, **always** wears a mask, and washes hands frequently. If signs or symptoms develop at any point, the contact should immediately isolate, seek medical care, and call the Health Department.

FAQs:

DO I HAVE TO GET MY CHILD TESTED?

No, assuming your child remains symptom-free, he or she does not need a negative test to return to school on Day 11. If they develop symptoms you should seek medical care and call the health department.

HOW DO I GET PCR TESTING?

- You can obtain PCR testing through your medical provider
- You can obtain PCR testing at a public testing site
- **REMEMBER:** the rapid antigen test is not accepted, it must be a PCR test
- If your child develops symptoms, seek medical care and call the Health Department
- Make sure results can be provided within 24 to 48 hours. If the results are likely to take longer than 48 hours, it may be better to quarantine through day 10 and return to school on day 11, if no symptoms. **CHILDREN WITH A KNOWN PENDING TEST RESULT SHOULD NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL**

IF I GET A NEGATIVE PCR TEST RESULT, OBTAINED ON OR AFTER DAY 6 FOLLOWING EXPOSURE, WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

Call the Health Department to check if the result has been reported electronically in their system. If the result is reported, they will let the school know that your child may return, assuming they remain asymptomatic. If you have been notified that the result is negative but it has not yet shown up in the DOH system, you will need to provide a copy of the lab directly to the Health Department. **NOTE: Please DO NOT fax or drop off copies of labs without first contacting the Health Department to make appropriate arrangements.**

Update to FAQ 9/4/20

1. Can face shields be used in place of cloth masks and what are the parameters?
 - a. The CDC does recognize that wearing a face covering or mask may not be possible in every situation for many individuals. In some situations, wearing a face covering or mask may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition. Some students with special needs may not be able to tolerate a face covering or mask, and students who are hearing impaired often rely on lip reading. While the CDC states evidence on face shields is limited, the available data suggest that if considered for use, certain face shields provide better source control than others. If utilizing a face shield, it should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend below the chin; hooded face shields are also acceptable.

Update to FAQ 8/20/20

Meals will be available for Distance Learners at each school beginning August 31, 2020. The meal price is based on your child's current lunch eligibility (Free, Reduced, Paid). Please use www.PayPams.com for pre-payments to your child's lunch account. Cash transactions will not occur at the pick-up point. Meals may only be picked-up at the school where your child is enrolled. Parents/guardians may pick up meals for their child. Parents/guardians will be asked for the student's name, grade and pin number. The pick-up location at each school varies. Please contact the cafeteria manager at your child's school for the pick-up location and your child's pin number before August 31, 2020.

Pick- Up Times

- ❖ Middle Schools and Gaines/Transitions: 8:30–9 am
 - ❖ Elementary Schools and K-8 Schools: 9–9:30 am
 - ❖ High Schools: 9:45–10:15 am
- *Gamble Rogers Middle School 8–8:30 am

Update to FAQ 7/16/20

1. Will there be a School-Based Distance Learning option for PreK ESE?
 - a. School-based Distance Learning is available to Pre-K students enrolled as Head Start or ESE students. The Florida Department of Education and the Office of Early Learning have communicated that distance learning is not an option for students enrolled as a VPK student. VPK students are only permitted to participate in person via "Brick and Mortar" school setting.
 - b. Head Start and ESE Pre-K families will be contacted by Early Childhood Services Department requesting their preferred instructional delivery model.
 - c. Please contact Brian McElhone at Brian.McElhone@stjohns.k12.fl.us for questions.

Frequently Asked Questions 7/14/20

Health/Safety Considerations

1. Is a student who tests positive in School-Based Brick & Mortar moved to the School-Based Distance Learning model?
 - a. The student will remain with their original class and receive teacher support while at home.
2. What is the protocol for the student to return to campus?
 - a. The Department of Health will follow CDC guidelines to discontinue quarantine and return to school.
3. Do all students in a classroom with a positive case need to get tested?
 - a. Per CDC guidelines, testing is not required. The local Department of Health will provide guidance for return to school in collaboration with school nurses.
4. Will there be desk shield barriers?
 - a. Desk shields will be provided in all PK-5 and in all K-12 ESE self-contained classrooms.
5. Will desks be separated in the classroom?
 - a. Per the American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC guidelines desks will be separated 3 to 6 feet where possible.
6. Will the district somehow set up rapid testing sites for students/staff?
 - a. No. The local Department of Health and Flagler Health+ are the lead agencies for COVID-19 testing.
7. When do we close a classroom/school?
 - a. The Department of Health determines this by looking at numbers as well as transmission characteristics. They look for clusters within a school setting and the nature of those exposed, such as younger students. They also look at what's happening in the surrounding community. There are many factors taken into consideration when they consider a closure of any kind.
8. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, will all teachers/students in that child's seven classes be sent home to quarantine?
 - a. Per CDC guidelines, only those with close personal contact to the student must quarantine. CDC defines close personal contact as being within 6 feet of a positive individual for 15 minutes.
9. Will quarantined students/teachers be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school?
 - a. Per CDC guidelines, testing is not required. The local Department of Health will provide guidance for return to school in collaboration with school nurses.
10. How will quarantined students continue their education while home awaiting clearance to return to school?

- a. The student will remain with their original class and receive teacher support while at home.
11. What precautions are schools taking to avoid an outbreak?
 - a. Return to School protocols can be found by visiting <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/reopening-plan/#protocols>
12. If a member of a student's household tests positive for Covid-19, will the student be asked to quarantine? How is learning affected for this student?
 - a. Yes, the student will need to quarantine. The student will remain with their original class and receive teacher support while at home.
13. If a teacher or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, who will be asked to quarantine?
 - a. Per CDC guidelines, only those with close personal contact to the person who tests positive must quarantine. CDC defines close personal contact as being within 6 feet of a positive individual for 15 minutes.
14. What precautions are being taken for our medically fragile students?
 - a. School nurses will work with the school staff, family and student's physician on student specific needs.
15. Are face masks/face shields going to be required at any point during the day for students/staff?
 - a. Masks will be required on school busses, during arrival until temperature checks are complete, during hallway transitions and during dismissal. Masks will be utilized when individuals are unable to social distance.
16. What are the limitations for volunteers/visitors to the school?
 - a. Visitor and volunteer access to campus will be restricted. Visitors and volunteers must be on official school business by appointment to enter. Visitors and volunteers are subject to COVID screening/clearance before entry.
17. How will Meet the Teacher be conducted? How will Kindergarten orientation be conducted?
 - a. Meet the teacher opportunities will be conducted online this year. Large group gatherings will be restricted until further notice.
 - b. Each school will determine how they will conduct Kindergarten orientation following CDC guidelines.
18. How will open house/curriculum chat be conducted?
 - a. Open house/curriculum chats will be conducted online this year. Large group gatherings will be restricted until further notice.
19. Will each classroom be sanitized between periods?
 - a. No. All frequently touched surfaces will be treated with an anti-microbial coating capable of killing viruses for up to 90 days. Frequently touched surfaces would include door handles, sink handles, playground equipment, desktops, reception countertops and other surfaces as needed.

20. In some programs (PE, Band, Music, etc.) where social distancing is a challenge, what strategies are being used for health and safety?
- Teachers will continue to teach appropriate health and safety protocols, such as social distancing and hand hygiene. While participating in physical activities, masks will not be worn based on guidance from the CDC.
21. When will students have their temperature checked?
- Upon arrival at morning Extended Day
 - Prior to the student removing their mask to eat breakfast
 - By the teacher upon arrival in their first class of each day
 - If late arrival, checked in the front office before the student reports to class
22. When taking the arrival temperature what is the temperature level threshold?
- CDC guidance determines fever at greater than 100.4 degrees is above the threshold.
23. What is the definition of an elementary cohort? An elementary cohort is one classroom of students with one teacher. Students do not mix with other cohorts except for the following exceptions: ESE services and RtI Interventions.
24. What health and safety protocols will be in place during lunch?
- Handwashing will be encouraged before and after lunch.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available before and after lunch.
 - Masks will be worn when not eating.
 - Tables will be separated 3 to 6 feet where possible.
 - Alternative seating areas will be utilized to promote social distancing.
 - Additional strategies may be in place to support health and safety.

Educational Considerations

- What does school-based distance learning look like?

Instruction, assignments and assessments are completed through an online platform with a certified teacher. The calendar matches the brick & mortar calendar with a daily schedule that includes a specific time designated for each course. School-Based Distance Learning school hours match brick & mortar school hours. Live and/or pre-recorded lessons will be provided daily by the teacher. Attendance is recorded daily. Engagement is monitored daily via interaction with the teacher and completion of assignments. School staff will provide advisement to a different instructional model when a student does not demonstrate adequate progress in distance learning.
- How will teachers provide instruction in the School-Based Distance Learning model?
 - There are two models for instructional delivery. The principal will decide the model that works best for each course.
 - Simultaneous Instruction
 - School-Based Distance Learning students are assigned to a School-Based Brick & Mortar class

2. Teacher serves both student groups simultaneously
 3. Lessons are delivered live from the classroom through Schoology
 4. School-Based Distance Learners engage live or via the chat with the teacher and their peers
- ii. Distance Learning Cohort
 1. School-Based Distance Learning students are grouped together as a class
 2. Teacher is scheduled to serve the distance learning students independent of brick and mortar classes.
 3. Elementary Teachers – assigned to a cohort of distance learners
 4. Secondary Teachers – assigned a period during the day to serve a cohort of distance learners
3. If I elect School-Based Brick & Mortar now, can we switch to School-Based Distance Learning at any time?
 - a. Yes. There may be a delay in service due to adjusting teachers/platforms. This may also cause a loss in course offerings. There would be a commitment through the end of the nine weeks period.
4. If I elect for School-Based Distance Learning, can we return to School-Based Brick & Mortar at any time?
 - a. The School-Based Distance Learning commitment is for the first nine weeks in order to align with the grading period.
5. If I sign-up now for School-Based Distance Learning, will there be an option to reapply for 2nd quarter?
 - a. Yes. Students can reapply for the second quarter based on a review of student engagement and student performance. At this time, the Executive Order allows for this option through the end of the first semester.
6. If I elect School-Based Distance Learning for my children, will my child be required to be present and online at certain times during the day?
 - a. Yes. Students will have daily lessons from their teachers to include live, recorded, and/or conferencing and in secondary this may include discussion boards. Daily engagement will be required.
 - b. The most flexible environment is St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS). SJVS includes a semester commitment.
7. Will all courses be available through Option 2- School-Based Distance Learning?
 - a. Every effort will be made to offer all courses through School-Based Distance Learning including standard, honors, and electives. However, there may be some non-core courses that we cannot offer due to necessary software, hardware or lab equipment that students cannot access outside of the classroom. Students will be contacted if there is a need to change a course.
8. On the School-Based Distance Learning registration form, it mentions having a teacher assigned. Does this mean that our middle school children will have only one teacher for

all subjects? Will they not have any interaction with the teachers at their brick and mortar school that they would return to later in the year if circumstances get better?

- a. No. A certified teacher will be assigned for each course. Our goal is a teacher from the school site would be assigned but it may be a teacher from another District school teaching the course. There is no guarantee they will keep the same teacher as they move from School-Based Distance Learning to Brick & Mortar.
9. If I choose School-Based Distance Learning, how will that effect those students who are not zoned for their high school but are attending after being admitted into an academy? Does this have any bearing, and will that student be placed in their zoned school?
- a. With an understanding of the unique and challenging circumstances of reopening the 2020-2021 (brick and mortar) school year, Career Academy students who are not planning to return to the school site, whether zoned for their current school or not zoned for their current school, will not be removed nor rezoned from their Career Academy for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan will be re-evaluated for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - b. At this time, we do not know if distance learning will be an option for the academy courses. This will be determined once the enrollment has been determined based on the completed surveys for School-Based Distance Learning. Students may have to choose a different elective if distance learning and/or virtual options are not available for their Career Academy course(s).
 - c. Due to the progression of Career Academy coursework, students will not be enrolled in academy courses after the school year begins unless transferring from the same course (for example, if coming from another school district or if they are enrolled in the course through distance learning or a virtual program). At the beginning of the following school year 2021-2022, students may enroll in the next course in their sequence if returning to the school site.
10. What is the platform for School-Based Distance Learning?
- a. Schoology along with curriculum resource tools (online textbooks and other online programs)
11. What would a typical week look like for school-based distance learning?
- a. Each week will reflect School-Based Brick & Mortar. Students will engage in lessons and assessments on the same schedule as their School-Based Brick & Mortar peers.
12. Is School-Based Distance Learning available for elementary?
- a. Yes. School-Based Distance Learning is available to students in grades K-5.
13. Will ESE students be able to attend in a “physical” classroom (five days a week)?
- a. Yes, unless there is a local or State Department of Health or Executive Order that requires us to close a school.
14. How will students have recess?

- a. Students will have recess in School-Based Brick & Mortar. Adjustments will be made based on local Department of Health and CDC recommendations, facilities, number of students, etc.
15. If I choose St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS), can we return to School-Based Brick & Mortar in six months? Or after the 2020-2021 school year ends?
- a. With SJVS, there is a semester commitment. Your child could return at the end of the first semester. Once second semester has started, we would recommend he/she stay for the remainder of the semester.
16. If my high school senior chooses the St. Johns Virtual School option, will they still qualify for Bright Futures?
- a. Yes, as long as they meet the required criteria.
17. If you sign up School-Based Distance Learning, can you also take classes via Florida Virtual School?
- a. Yes. Please work with your child's school counselor.
18. Will my child be placed in a gifted/blended School-Based Distance Learning class if they have an Educational Plan (EP)?
- a. Students with EP goals will be served by a certified teacher. In School-Based Brick & Mortar or School-Based Distance Learning, this may or may not be accomplished through a gifted/blended class.
19. Will hard copy instructional materials be used in addition to digital resources in School-Based Distance Learning?
- a. Yes. Hard copy materials may include textbooks, work texts, and/or packets.
20. What will be my child's schedule in School-Based Distance Learning?
- a. There will be a designated time for each course that will reflect the School-Based Brick & Mortar calendar and daily schedule.
21. If I elect School-Based Distance Learning, can my child come to campus each day for a related arts or Academy course?
- a. Please work with your child's school to discuss potential options based on their schedule.
22. Will the attendance policy be changed?
- a. No. Attendance policies apply for both students in School-Based Brick & Mortar and students in School-Based Distance Learning.
23. Will there be a School-Based Distance Learning option for VPK?
- a. The Early Childhood department is working on options for School-Based Distance Learning. Please contact Brian McElhone at Brian.McElhone@stjohns.k12.fl.us
24. If an ESE student elects School-Based Distance Learning, how will services be provided?
- a. The case manager and family will develop appropriate supports for the student in School-Based Distance Learning.

25. If a student moves from School-Based Distance Learning to School-Based Brick & Mortar, will the student keep the same teacher?
- a. Every effort will be made, however, there is no guarantee the student will keep the same teacher.

Operational Considerations

1. Will students doing the School-Based Distance Learning option be able to play school sports and do school extra-curricular activities?
 - a. Yes. It is our intention to continue to offer extra-curricular and interscholastic athletic opportunities. We are currently working with all our Athletic Directors and district staff with sport specific planning considerations that address this matter in alignment with guidance from the FHSAA, local Department of Health, and CDC recommendations. St. Johns Virtual School and Home Education students currently participate in athletics and we will continue to follow FHSAA guidelines.
2. How will students be grouped in Extended Day?
 - a. Students may be assigned to a specific group to make a cohort. A cohort may sit together for activities. Masks must be worn or social distancing observed when cohorts combine.
3. Will laptops be provided for School-Based Distance Learning for those who do not have them?
 - a. Yes, we will provide devices when requested.