



**Current guidelines for public-school students who have been identified as direct contacts to COVID-19 per Emergency Rule 64DER21-15
9/24/2021**

Parents or legal guardians of students who are known to have been in direct contact** with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 may choose one of the following options:

- Allow the student to attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property, without restrictions, so long as the student remains asymptomatic (symptom-free); **or**
- Quarantine the student for a period of time not to exceed seven days from the date of last direct contact with an individual that is positive for COVID-19.

Students identified as a direct contact should be monitored for [symptoms of COVID-19](#). If you notice any symptoms, do **not** send the student to school and contact the student's pediatrician immediately for further evaluation and testing.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets which are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms which is why keeping exposed individuals separated from others is important.

Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. The [most common symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19 are fever, cough and difficulty breathing. If symptoms develop, the student should seek medical care and get tested.

The best way to prevent illness is by limiting exposure to the virus.

- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

If you have any questions regarding quarantining of public-school students in St. Johns County, please call the Joint Information Quarantine Call Center for public-school students at (904) 819-1101.

More information about COVID-19 is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on its website www.cdc.gov/covid19.

** A direct contact is anyone who had face-to-face contact with or was within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more