

An illustration of several hands of different skin tones (brown, tan, and light skin) joined together in a circle, symbolizing community and unity. The hands are set against a teal background with various colored segments (yellow, blue, red, purple) representing different people or groups. The entire scene is enclosed in a white oval border.

# Newington Forest Community Meeting

September 15, 2021  
6:00-7:00 PM

**Provide Clarity &  
Understanding**

# PURPOSE

**The Why behind COVID Protocols**

**Protocols**

**School's role**

**Respond to Questions**



# Opening School Directives

- School as usual
- Students can sit together (classroom and cafeteria)
- Distance as much as you can
- No additional staff (Monitors, extra time in the cafeteria)

# Why is this so complicated?

**The nature of the disease-** infectious period

**Changing Protocols** (at 2 major changes each week since school started)

**Lack of understanding of close contacts**

**Slow Health Department responses & Follow up**

**Last year, no one was a Close Contact because of Social Distancing**

# What is a close contact?

**Students & Staff- Within 6 feet of COVID positive individual for 15 minutes or more**

**K-12 exception from CDC, not a close contact if we can keep students at least 3 feet apart & consistently wear masks**

# What is a close contact?

FYI- 1 case can take as much as 5 hours to report, contact trace, notify parents/staff, manage paperwork

- ❖ **Staff to staff w/in 6 feet for 15 min or more**
- ❖ **Staff to student w/in 6 feet for 15 min or more**
- ❖ **Student to student wearing a mask **less** than 3 feet for 15 min or more**
- ❖ **Student to staff w/in 6 feet for 15 min or more**

## Follow the **Return to School Guidance** below if your child was sent home with any of the above symptoms:

### If NO close contact with COVID-19 case:

- **Positive COVID-19 test** – Isolate by staying home until **10 days** from onset of symptoms, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms are improving; or **10 days** from day of positive test if never had symptoms.
  - **Negative COVID-19 Test** – Stay home until no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms are improving.
  - **No testing done and no alternate diagnosis** – Isolate by staying home until **10 days** onset of symptoms, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved.
  - **Alternate diagnosis by a healthcare provider that explains symptoms** – Stay home until no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms are improving or longer as per provider's instructions.
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### If close contact with a COVID-19 case:

- **Positive COVID-19 test** – Isolate by staying home until **10 days** from onset of symptoms, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms are improving; or **10 days** from day of positive test if never had symptoms.
- **Negative COVID-19 test or no testing done** – Quarantine by staying home until **14 days** from the date of last exposure, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved.



# Understanding the Infectious Period

**The infectious period is 48 hours prior to symptoms onset.**

**If an employee or a student is not in school during infectious period,  
NO ACTION IS REQUIRED re: contact tracing.**

**Example: Symptoms began 9/6 (Labor day)**

**Infectious period was Saturday 9/4 and Sunday 9/5**

# What COVID test does FCPS accept?

**Lab confirmed tests (Rapid or PCR)**

**Had 3 false positives with Rapid tests**

**Home tests are NOT accepted**

**(staff and students)**



# Consistent Precautions

**Stay home if you have COVID symptoms or are feeling ill**

Unvaccinated- Fever, Shortness of breath, fatigue

Vaccinated- Headache, flu/allergy like symptoms, fatigue

**Wearing Masks/ Washing Hands**

**Getting 3 feet apart in the cafeteria**



# When a student tests positive

**Report it to the school immediately**

**Information needed:**

- When did the student's symptoms begin?**
- When was the student last in school?**
- Is the student in SACC?**

**SACC is Daycare- VDH has different protocols for daycare (Ex. how they report, who they report to, stricter distancing requirements)**

# When a staff member tested positive

- ❖ Principal reports to online system COVID system
- ❖ Identify the close contacts through seating charts; notify parents and HD
- ❖ Send Community & Staff notification (once a week as last week)
- ❖ Send weekly COVID cases and pauses (as of Friday, 9/10)
- ❖ Return to School Form or a Negative test with Doctor's signature

# Parent Letters

District direction is.... Notification letters reporting cases in the school  
-not specific classes or specific students

# When a student is on Pause or a Quarantine.....

- At this time, there is only asynchronous assignments available through Schoology

Except if the whole class is paused

- School Board has not approved streaming into classes yet
- There is no concurrent this year
- School Board meeting tomorrow to continue the conversation

# Who Decides if the Whole class needs to be paused?

- ❖ **Not at the school level**
- ❖ **The District decides with the Health Department**
- ❖ **Each case is decided individually. There is not a set number of students that determines a class closure.**



# Outdoor Eating

- Each school was provided a tent for outdoor learning/dining
- Ordered it in April, still waiting for it be set up
- Challenge- Supervision (working to find and hire additional staff to help manage an outdoor option) Every room in the school is assigned and being used

