

The following revisions to our COVID-19 close contact quarantine protocol for students exposed outside the school setting will take effect immediately:

The CDC, SD Department of Health, and Pierre School district have adopted two alternatives to the current 14-day quarantine for students exposed to COVID-19 and considered close contacts outside the school setting:

10 Day Quarantine Alternative: The individual has been quarantined for 10 days since the last close contact exposure and has:

- No symptoms during the quarantine period; and
- Agrees to close contact protocol for the remainder of the 14-day period

The 10 day quarantine calculator can be found at this link: [Coronavirus Quarantine and Isolation Calculator \(sd.gov\)](https://www.sd.gov/coronavirus/quarantine-and-isolation-calculator)

7 Day Quarantine Alternative: The individual has been quarantined for 7 days since the last close contact exposure and has:

- No symptoms during the quarantine period; and
- A negative molecular or rapid antigen test result collected on Day 5 of quarantine or after (documentation of negative test must be provided to the school); and
- Agrees to close contact protocol for the remainder of the 14-day period

Example:

Last close contact exposure to a COVID positive individual: 12/10/20

Last day of 10 day quarantine: 12/20/20 (return to school next school day)

First date negative test could be taken to return to school prior to 12/21/20: 12/15/20

Last day of 7 day quarantine with documentation of negative test result: 12/17/20 (return to school next school day)

Any student, regardless of where exposed, that is returning to school prior to the end of the 14-day quarantine must abide by the following close contact quarantine protocol while at school:

1. Wear a mask at all times during school and activities. Masks may be removed during mealtimes and if necessary, during physical exertion.
2. Social distance whenever possible,
3. Agree to COVID-19 symptom checks at school each morning and mid-day;
and
4. Report any COVID-19 related symptoms immediately, and if symptomatic the student will be required to leave school, quarantine and consult with their medical provider about being tested for COVID-19.

The following link provides information for a free at-home COVID-19 testing option: <https://covid.sd.gov/testing.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and diligence to the personal responsibility we all must accept to help keep each other safe and healthy. Please continue to stay home if you are sick, practice good hygiene including hand washing and sanitizing, and practice social distancing whenever possible.



Kelly J. Glodt, Ph.D.
Superintendent

