



Our Lady Star of the Sea School
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OLSS COVID PROTOCOL CHANGES EFFECTIVE 1/13/22

Dear OLSS Families,

Below are the updated OLSS COVID protocols, based off our most recent guidance from ADW, Maryland Department of Health, and Calvert County Health Department, along with taking into consideration our personal population of students and staff whom we are trying to protect. Our goal is to remain in the school building for learning with minimal interruptions related to exposures, outbreaks, and classroom/school closures.

PLEASE NOTE YOU MUST CONTINUE TO REPORT ALL POSITIVE CASES AND EXPOSURES TO SCHOOLNURSE@OLSSS.ORG for contact tracing purposes and identifying possible exposures.

PERSONS WHO HAVE CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19 (ISOLATION)



All persons who test positive for COVID-19 or have suspected COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, will complete isolation as follows:

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID will stay home from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or the date of the positive test if no symptoms and may return under the following conditions:
 - Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the first full day after the person tested positive if asymptomatic.
 - After Day 5, if the person:
 - Has NO symptoms, they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without medication,
 - Is able to wear a well-fitting mask when around others and strict social distancing for an additional 5 days,
 - AND can present a NEGATIVE RAPID TEST prior to return along with assessment by SCHOOL NURSE that all above requirements have been met,
 - IF ALL above requirements can be met, student/staff may return to school on Day 6.

If above criteria cannot be met, student/staff will remain home the full 10 days and return on Day 11.

If the person is determined by staff to be unable to PROPERLY wear a mask around others and distance, they will remain at home for a full 10 days.

FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 (QUARANTINE)



Current definition of FULLY Vaccinated is as follows:

- Adults 18 years and older who have been boosted OR completed the primary series of Pfizer within the last 5 months or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months AND they have no symptoms
- Children 5-17 years old who have completed the Pfizer vaccine series as recommended AND they have no symptoms
- Persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (i.e. tested positive using a viral test).

These persons do not need to quarantine after an exposure but MUST:

- ISOLATE AWAY FROM the positive case - meaning no common shared spaces, and masked and distanced 6 feet apart. If isolation away from positive case cannot occur, exposure date cannot START until the positive cases isolation period ENDS (10 days).
- Wear a well-fitting mask and distance around others for 10 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- Vaccinated individuals that are **asymptomatic** have the option to test (not required) at least 5 days after the last close contact (persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to test).

If the person tests positive or develops symptoms, they MUST stay home and follow recommendations for isolation above.

If the person tests negative, they MUST continue to wear a well-fitting mask and distance around others for 10 days after the last close contact.

NOT VACCINATED/NOT FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 (QUARANTINE)



The following recommendations apply to:

- Persons of all ages who are unvaccinated
- Adults 18 years and older who have completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine over 5 months ago or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted.

These persons MUST quarantine after exposure as follows:

- ISOLATE AWAY FROM the positive case - meaning no common shared spaces, and masked and distanced 6 feet apart. If isolation away from positive case cannot occur, exposure date cannot START until the positive cases isolation period ENDS (10 days).
- Stay home for at least 5 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- If no symptoms develop, get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact.
- If the person tests negative, they may return to school IF they wear a well-fitting mask and distance when around others until 10 days after their last close contact

- If the person tests positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above
- If the person develops symptoms they should get tested immediately and remain at home; if the test is positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above.
- If the person is unable to mask/distance around others, they should remain at home for 10 days from the date of last close contact.

The above guidelines align with current recommendations from CDC, MDH, ADW, and CCHD, along with consideration of our current population here at OLSS. As we know, updated guidance is allowing persons to return after 5 days of testing positive, CDC has not stated that a positive case is no longer contagious after 5 days. However, the guidelines are based off the concept that if symptoms are diminished or resolved a person "may be less contagious after 5 days and may return with strict masking and distancing protocols in place."

Guidance continues to state that if strict masking and distancing cannot occur, that the 10-day quarantine IS the safest option. Due to this fact, knowing our students are 3 feet apart in the classroom and we have had difficulty in some of our populations ability to follow proper masking protocols, we do not feel at this time it is in the best interest and safety of our staff and students to implement these protocols without additional safety measures in place.

After researching further guidance from health professionals, we feel that students should not return after 5 days without an assessment that symptoms have resolved, and proof of a negative rapid test providing proof that the viral load is low enough to no longer be detected on a rapid antigen test.

Based on current data, we know Omicron is more easily transmissible and symptom onset is quicker (average of 1-3 days). The majority of all exposures will result in symptoms or positive testing by day 5.

We feel confident that these measures will detect nearly all positive cases related to exposure prior to return to school. Our goal is to prevent outbreaks and classroom shutdowns so our students may remain in the school building. This may mean maintaining stricter guidelines to accomplish these goals.

Thank you for your understanding during this time.

Sincerely,

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