

COVID-19 exclusion criteria for close (direct) contacts:

A **direct contact** is defined as a person who has been within 6 feet of a positive Covid-19 case for 15 minutes or longer regardless of whether the person is masked or unmasked.

CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period – and thus the preferred school exclusion period – it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in NJDOH quarantine guidance. In the school setting, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on Regional Risk Levels:

High (orange) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.

Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days. (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)

Schools serving medically complex or other high-risk individuals should use a 14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts throughout all risk levels.

The Regional Risk Level is updated weekly.

As of the week ending 1/16/21, NJ is still considered **Orange (High Risk)**:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_19_Report_Week_2021_2.pdf

The next Regional Risk Level update will be available via the link below:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

Rest assured, we are in close contact with our local Board of Health and will reevaluate policies as conditions improve.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in these unusual and difficult times.

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