

Ask the School Nurse: Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I notify if my child is going to be absent from school for any reason?

Please notify the school nurse at schoolnurse@scaeagles.com and provide details regarding your child's absence. If your student is absent from school due to illness, please include the following information in your email to me:

- *Your name and your child's name and grade*
- *Details of their symptoms and onset of their symptoms*
- *Has your child been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person? If yes, please provide exposure circumstances and when the exposure occurred.*
- *Contact phone number*

What do I do if my child has been exposed to COVID-19 or if my child has any symptoms of Covid-19?

Do not send your child to school and contact the school nurse at schoolnurse@scaeagles.com

How do I know if I or my child has been exposed?

Any person who has had close contact (less than 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes with or without a mask) to someone who tests positive is considered to have been potentially exposed to COVID-19.

When can my child return to school if he/she has had possible exposure/close contact to COVID-19?

If it has been 14 days since exposure to someone with Covid-19 and your child has not developed symptoms or tested positive, he/she may return.

When can my child return to school if he/she has tested positive for COVID-19?

A student may return to school 10 days after the first symptom began AND they must be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications AND no longer symptomatic.

How will my child receive instruction while in quarantine?

I will contact your child's principal and teacher(s) in the event your child is in quarantine and they will reach out to you to provide next steps for instruction.

What are possible COVID-19 symptoms?

Possible COVID-19 symptoms may include: fever (100.4 or greater), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell

If a parent or other family member is being tested for COVID-19, should my child stay home until I get my test results back?

Yes. If you or any other family member are being tested for COVID-19 your child should stay home until you have the results. If that family member were to test positive, please notify me as soon as possible at schoolnurse@scaeagles.com

What does it mean to quarantine?

A person who is asked to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 or due to testing positive to COVID-19 must stay at home and while at home they must stay 6 feet from other family members. They are not able to attend gatherings or events such as church, sports activities, eating out at restaurants, etc.

Does SCA contact trace in the event of a positive COVID-19 student or staff member?

Yes. SCA is required to notify the Dougherty County Department of Public Health of any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 as well as provide the names of any close contacts of this person. A close contact is defined by the CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection). Therefore, if any SCA student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 we are required and will ask for their close contacts.

Can a person who has contracted COVID-19 be reinfected?

At this time, we do not know if someone can be re-infected with COVID-19. Data to date shows that a person who has had and recovered from COVID-19 may have low levels of virus in their bodies for up to 3 months after diagnosis. This means that if the person who has recovered from COVID-19 is retested within 3 months of initial infection, they may continue to have a positive test result, even though they are not spreading COVID-19. After three months, it is unknown whether a person can be re-infected. Per CDC guidelines, if it has been more than 3 months since a person tested positive and they have been exposed, they will need to quarantine for the 14 days.

When considering a close contact quarantine, if a person is symptomatic and tests negative with the rapid test, should we still quarantine all close contacts or wait for the PCR results?

Currently, the rapid antigen tests that have received authorization from FDA are authorized for diagnostic testing on symptomatic persons within the first 5-12 days of symptom onset (depending on the test being used). Generally, clinicians can rely upon a positive diagnostic antigen test result because the specificity of current FDA-authorized antigen tests is high in a person who has COVID-19 symptoms. There are other viruses that are currently co-circulating such as rhinovirus and adenovirus. Over the next few months, flu will also likely be co-circulating as well. Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions, including infection control decisions. In most cases, negative antigen diagnostic test results in persons with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or among those with a history of close contact with a confirmed case, are considered presumptive and should be confirmed with a PCR based test.