COVID-19
HEALTH OFFICE FAQ

What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

When a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 they are expected to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Isolation keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has provided options to shorten quarantine for contacts of persons with COVID-19 infection. **The most protective recommended quarantine period remains at 14 days post exposure.** However, quarantine can end after day 10 without testing if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.

When testing resources are sufficient, quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen (e.g. rapid test-PCR, antigen) tests negative and is collected on day 5 or thereafter and the person remains asymptomatic.

Quarantine may not be further shortened beyond the end of day 7.

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps to prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

People who live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact would start their 10 days of quarantine after the person who has COVID-19 ends their home isolation of 10 days.

What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing has been used for decades by state and local health departments to slow or stop the spread of infectious diseases.

Contact tracing slows the spread of COVID-19 by
- Letting people know they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and should monitor their health for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 get tested
- Asking people to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 or self-quarantine if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19

Who is considered a close contact to someone with COVID-19?

For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for longer than 15 consecutive minutes or more. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

Am I considered a close contact if I was wearing a mask?

Yes, you are still considered a close contact even if you were wearing a mask while you were around someone with COVID-19. Masks are meant to protect other people in case you are infected, and not to protect you from becoming infected.

What if I have been around someone who was identified as a close contact?

If you have been around someone who was identified as a close contact to a person with COVID-19, closely monitor yourself for any symptoms of COVID-19. You do not need to self-quarantine unless you develop symptoms or if the person identified as a close contact develops COVID-19.

What happens if I travel out of the state while school is not in session?

Pennsylvanians visiting other states are required to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to their return to the commonwealth or to quarantine for 10 days upon return to Pennsylvania.