



## **Parent COVID-19 Q&A**

*Updated: 8/28/20*

During Curriculum Night, many of our parents had questions related to our Covid-19 protocols and procedures. Below are responses to the questions that our parent community asked. If you have any further questions, please contact any member of our administrative team.

### **What if a family member in my household tests positive but my elementary child is asymptomatic?**

- Please notify your school that a family member has received a positive test result. Your child will be asked to quarantine for 14 days, even if they are asymptomatic, because they have had direct exposure to a positive case.

### **What if MY CHILD tests positive for COVID-19?**

- If a student or staff member receives a positive COVID-19 result DURING the school day, contact your school nurse or school administrator immediately. Note, when a positive case is reported to FCS, it is confirmed by the DPH.
  - [abartlett@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:abartlett@forsyth.k12.ga.us) – Principal
  - [kspangler@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:kspangler@forsyth.k12.ga.us) – Sharon Nurse
- If a student or staff member receives a positive COVID-19 result AFTER school hours, including weekends, contact your school principal or assistant principal by email.
  - [abartlett@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:abartlett@forsyth.k12.ga.us) – Principal
  - [Brobertson97@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:Brobertson97@forsyth.k12.ga.us) – Assistant Principal K-2
  - [rmoity@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:rmoity@forsyth.k12.ga.us) – Assistant Principal 3-5
- School staff will submit the name and contact information for the individual with the positive test AND the name and contact information for those who have had direct exposure to the individual with the positive test to the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).
  - Direct Exposure (per the Department of Public Health) is defined as less than 6 feet for 15 or more consecutive minutes.
  - The students who had direct exposure MUST stay at home using guidance provided by the Department of Public Health.

### **How will I be notified if my child has had DIRECT EXPOSURE at school?**

- Our main method of communication will be email. We will be using emails listed in Parent Portal accounts. All parents/guardians MUST have a Parent Portal account.
  - If you DO NOT have a Parent Portal account, [view directions here](#).
  - If you DO have a Parent Portal account, [learn how to update your email addresses and phone numbers](#)
- School staff will send the name and contact information for the individual with the positive test AND the name and contact information for those individuals who have had direct exposure to the individual with the positive test to the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).
  - If a student has had direct exposure to someone that tested positive for COVID-19, you will receive the email below:

*Dear Parent/Guardian,*

*You are receiving this email because your child, (NAME), has had direct exposure to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19. Your child must quarantine, which includes staying at home, not participating in school, extracurricular or public activities, and transitioning temporarily to its learning for 14 days starting from (INSERT DATE), the date of direct exposure. Please contact your child's teacher for questions related to school/its learning.*

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has been notified and will be in contact with you. Please monitor your child daily for any symptoms, contact your physician for health questions, and access resources provided at [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth). If your child begins to have symptoms or tests positive during the quarantine period, please contact your child's school immediately as this will impact their return date.

- Similar to inclement weather/school closures, parents/guardians MUST have a plan in case their child is transitioned temporarily or for an extended period of time to virtual learning from home.
- All parents/guardians MUST check their email frequently for updates. Direct exposure emails will be sent between 5-10 pm and by 6:05 am.
- A daily number of positive students and staff members COVID-19 cases by school will be posted weekdays by 6 pm at [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth). This DOES NOT mean that the individual was physically at school on this day. Monday totals include those from the prior weekend. Information is entered by 6 pm daily; for cases reported after 5 pm, the chart will be updated for that day the next morning.

#### **How does the school decide which students need to quarantine?**

- Any students who had direct exposure to the positive student MUST stay at home using guidance provided by the Department of Public Health.
- Direct Exposure (per the Department of Public Health) is defined as less than 6 feet for 15 or more consecutive minutes.
- Direct Exposure may happen in the classroom, on the bus, in our afterschool program, etc.
- It is important to note, we have taken great precautions to utilize seating charts to limit the students' exposure to others.

#### **How many days will my child need to be quarantined for a positive case or direct exposure?**

Counting Days:

- **For Positive Cases:** Day 1 begins on their positive test date (if asymptomatic) or Day 1 begins on their first day of symptoms (if symptomatic). Count 10 days and if day 10 is fever free without the use of medications and an improvement in respiratory symptoms, the student can return to school on day 11. If symptoms began on Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, that is day 1, then count 10 days. The student could return to school on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> (if on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> they meet the criteria of 24 hours symptom free without medications).
- **For Direct Exposures/Quarantine:** Day 1 begins on the day of exposure (even if you are not advised of the positive case until 2-3 days later). They will complete day 14 at home and attend school on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> day. For example: Date of exposure is Aug. 10, you count Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> as day one, then count 14 days which is Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>. They can attend school on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Will I be notified if there are students in my children's classroom that have tested positive or have been directly exposed at school?**

- Yes, in addition to the direct exposure email above, the school will notify parents/guardians by email when there is an individual with a positive COVID-19 test within your child's classroom.

#### **How will you decide if and when you will shut down the school or a classroom?**

- It is far more complex than simply picking a number of absences to trigger a shut-down. Our superintendent and staff are working daily with the Department of Public Health pouring over the local data. Included into this complex formula are factors outside of just "positive tests" and direct exposure quarantine numbers, though those are obviously very important. Things like hospital capacity, numbers of teachers/bus drivers out, availability of substitutes, etc. are all part of the determination. It's very complex and not a precise number.

- If a decision is made to close a classroom or larger (grade level, school, etc.) parents/guardians will receive a Parent Portal/Campus Messenger email and inbox message. Due to privacy laws we are unable to share the name of a student or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19.

**Can parents of virtual students choose alternate activities for Art, Music, and PE, such as riding a bike, playing outside, or free drawing?**

- No, the goal of the elementary virtual program in FCS is to offer the high-quality education that students receive in the face-to-face setting. The state of Georgia requires standards-based instruction in the Fine Arts areas of Art, Music, and PE and our teachers have worked very hard to provide high-quality instruction and a robust curriculum. Student report cards will reflect participation in these virtual classes.

**My son says his class has P.E. with another class from the other team (both in the gym) Are teams commingling or mixing now? We thought P.E. classes would be separated.**

- Our Special Area classes are limited to just one class at a time. If we experience inclement weather, it may be necessary to bring all our students into the gym. In this event, the PE activity will be designed to have students spaced out 6 feet. This would be more of an exception than a regular occurrence.

**What will happen to our classes as virtual students decide to re-enter face-to-face instruction? Will our class sizes become enlarged/overcrowded?**

- Every 9 weeks, parents will have the option to move from the virtual setting to face-to-face or from face-to-face to virtual. At that time, we will closely analyze our numbers and reallocate our staff to meet these needs.

**What if Child A tests positive, but Child B who sits within 6 feet has already had COVID – will they still need to quarantine at home?**

- We will consult with the Department of Public Health on each scenario and follow their guidance for quarantine.

**What will happen if a child is sick, but the family chooses not to get a COVID test?**

- We encourage all students that are experiencing symptoms to seek guidance and direction from their healthcare provider. In addition, the school nurse, guardians and healthcare provider can work collaboratively to make a case by case collaborative decision. A child is not to return to school until fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting has stopped for a full 24 hours, without the aid of medication. Prescribed antibiotic medications for communicable diseases are to be given for 24 hours prior to return.

**Will they be able to take the Chromebooks they are using in class home to use for virtual learning if we have to go virtual as a whole school/state?**

- Absolutely. Thanks to the generosity of the Sharon PTO/Parent Community, we have enough Chromebooks to issue 1:1 for every student if we do go to a complete virtual learning setting.

For additional COVID-19 information, please visit [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth) .