Memorandum

DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: School District Superintendents, School Principals and School Health Coordinators

FROM: Florida Department of Health

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance

The Florida Department of Health has statutory authority pursuant to sections 252.36, 381.0031, and 381.00315, Florida Statutes, to quarantine and conduct contact tracing of individuals. To reduce the time a student is away from in-person learning, school districts should follow the guidance of the local county health department to implement the quarantine options recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

What is an exposure?
Per CDC guidelines an exposure is defined as individual who has been within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

What are the quarantine options?

- If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on Day 6 or later and receives a negative result, then they may end quarantine after completion of Day 7.
- Without testing, an asymptomatic close contact may end quarantine after completion of Day 10.
- Under special circumstances, students should quarantine for 14 days. This would apply to someone who will be exposed to medically vulnerable individuals.

Additional quarantine considerations

- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19.
- Vaccinated persons with an exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) and remain asymptomatic.

For additional guidance, please contact your designated local county health department epidemiology staff or visit the CDC's webpage at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/contact-tracing.html.

cc: County Health Department Administrators
    County Health Department Nursing Directors