

August 12, 2020

**Case Investigation and Contact Tracing process in Woodbury County, IA Schools
(K-12) for 2020-2021.**

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, Siouxland District Health Department and schools can work together to notify students, parents, staff members and volunteers when an exposure to COVID-19 has occurred at a school.

Below are steps to be followed for a positive case identification and contract tracing along with a templated message to be sent to identified close contacts.

Please note, schools most likely will be notified of a positive COVID 19 test or pending test by a parent or guardian, prior to Siouxland Distirct Health Department knowing of test results. It is imperative that parents notify schools as to why a child is out sick and if they are awaiting a COVID 19 test or have tested positive.

If you have a student that notifies you they are awaiting a COVID-19 test result:

1. Determine everything the possible positive case student participated in during the 48-hours prior to being tested or showing symptoms. This will include: classes, extracurricular school activities/sports, transportation utilized.
2. With help from SDHD, identify all potential close contacts which is any student, staff or volunteer that was within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. This includes:
 - A. Class time
 - B. Extracurricular school activities/sports
 - C. Transportation time
 - D. Meal and recess time

***Having assigned seating arrangements in above mentioned items will assist in this process. Having those documents accessible from home for evening or weekend access is recommended.

3. If test result comes back negative, student can return after 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and symptoms have improved if present. No close contacts need to be contacted.

If you have a student that notifies you of a positive COVID-19 test:

1. Confirm when symptoms started or if no symptoms, the test date.
2. Notify Siouxland District Health Department of positive test result via the 24 hour Emergency Reporting line at 712-234-3903.
3. Positive case will be contacted by SDHD and will be provided isolation recommendations. The student cannot return to school until they meet the guidance recommendations of 10/1. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and at least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved.
 - a. Example: A student develops symptoms on August 1 and later tests positive.
 - i. August 1 = Day 0
 - ii. August 2 = Day 1
 - iii. August 11 = Day 10
 - iv. August 12 = Student can resume all activities
4. School notifies close contacts that were previously identified in steps above. If close contacts have not yet been identified follow steps below.
5. With help from SDHD, identify exposure period of positive case. For symptomatic people, this begins 48 hours prior to symptoms starting and continues through when the case began to isolate. For asymptomatic people, we begin at 48 hours prior to when the test was performed.
6. Determine everything the positive case student participated in during that 48-hour time period: classes, extracurricular school activities/sports, transportation utilized.
7. With help from SDHD, identify all close contacts which is any student, staff or volunteer that was within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. This includes:
 - A. Class time
 - B. Extracurricular school activities/sports
 - C. Transportation time
 - D. Meal and recess time

***Having assigned seating arrangements in above mentioned items will assist in this process. Having those documents accessible from home for evening or weekend access is recommended.
8. Work with public health to determine date quarantine ends for identified close contacts – typically 14 days from last exposure.
 - a. Example: A student was exposed to COVID-19 on August 1.
 - i. August 1 = Day 0
 - ii. August 2 = Day 1
 - iii. August 15 = Day 14
 - iv. August 16 = Student can resume all activities as long as no symptoms developed.
9. School sends out notification to all close contacts of the potential exposure and asks them to complete the required quarantine with a provided end date.
 - a. Explain what quarantine means: no participating in school, extracurricular activities, social activities, or anything else.
 - b. Individuals recommended to complete a quarantine, should stay at home until the quarantine end date.
10. Isolation/quarantine recommendations will not be changed if a negative test result is received following a positive test result or if someone who has been exposed and is a close contact chooses to get tested while completing a quarantine. For example, if a student is exposed to COVID-19, they will not be allowed to participate in school and other activities until their identified quarantine is over, even if they get tested and the result is negative.

Positive Case in The House

***All individuals living in the same house as the positive case, including siblings, are automatically considered a close contact and will need to quarantine for 14 days.

Identified Close Contact in The House

**** All individuals living in the same house with an identified close contact should try and remain 6 ft away from that individual. Other household contacts do not need to quarantine at this time. If the close contact becomes symptomatic, then these other household members should quarantine until test results are received. Example: Tommy was identified as a close contact to his classmate Sally who tested positive. Tommy has to quarantine at home for up to 14 days since last exposure to Sally. Tommy’s household members (siblings, parents, etc) should try to stay away from him as much as possible, but are still allowed to go to school and work.

Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 in Previous 3-months

***** If a student has previously been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is exposed within three months of that diagnosis, quarantine is not recommended in the event of close contact with an infected person as long as the previously infected person remains asymptomatic. These students should be allowed to attend school and participate in activities as long as the parent can provide proof to the school from their health care provider, or testing facility (TestIowa) stating previous diagnosis with test date. If the student develops new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 3 months after the date of initial symptom onset, re-testing should be considered. In this case, the symptomatic person should be isolated again, if those symptoms developed within 14 days after close contact with an infected person.

Sample Template to be sent to all close contacts prior to next school day:

This message is from (insert school name). (Insert child’s name) has been identified as a close contact of an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19. Your child will need to self quarantine at home until (insert date), as this date is 14 days from last known exposure. Self quarantine means, no participating in on-site schooling, extracurricular activities or social activities. Your child should remain at home during this time. Household members should try and remain 6 ft away from your child during this time, however household members such as parents and siblings are free to leave the house for work and school. Should your child who has been identified as the close contact begin to experience symptoms of COVID-19 please contact your medical provider. If you have additional questions please contact Siouxland District Health Department at 279-6119.

Sample Template Language you may elect to send out to a school with a positive COVID-19 test:

Today, (insert school name) was identified as having a positive COVID-19 case. Since becoming aware of the positive result, we have enacted our Positive COVID-19 Test Protocol which includes the following steps:

(Insert your school’s steps:)

If you have not been contacted by (insert school name) staff your child was not identified as a close contact and should plan on attending school tomorrow.

(Any additional closing remarks you may want to add).

Also attached with this letter are two infographics provided by the Iowa Department of Education and Public Health to assist with [evaluating sick students and staff](#), and [Return to Learn](#) flow chart. We encourage you to share these documents with your students' families and staff.

One final request is that each school district will provide one COVID -19 point of contact with name and 24 hour contact information to Siouxland District Health Department. That individual's information should be submitted to Kevin Grieme at kgrieme@siouxlanddistricthealth.org.

Should you have any questions on this provided information please contact Tyler Brock, Deputy Director at Siouxland District Health Department at 279-6119.

Thanks,



Kevin Grieme
SDHD Health Director