



COVID-19: BCPS Contact Tracing

- *Contact tracing**
 - identifies people who have been exposed to COVID-19.
 - determines if quarantine is needed.
 - reduces further spread of COVID-19 by limiting additional exposures.

*The identity of persons that have tested positive is kept confidential.

- *Close contacts* are persons who have been within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes (cumulative throughout day) during the time the person was possibly contagious (which begins 48 hours before symptoms developed or 48 hours before tested, if person had no symptoms).
 - If 6-foot distancing is maintained, even when persons are in the same classroom or office, it is likely that no close contacts will be identified.
 - There may be circumstances when all of an office, classroom, athletic team, or bus are identified as close contacts and will need to quarantine.
 - *Contacts of contacts* do not need to quarantine—Only those with direct, close contact with someone with COVID-19 will need to quarantine.
- Employees working in a BCPS school or office are expected to report having been diagnosed with COVID-19 or having had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- When an employee or student reports a positive test, a BCPS nurse will
 - provide guidance about isolation and return to school/work, and
 - identify and notify close contacts.

Employees will be referred to the Leaves office for additional support; students will be permitted to sign in to virtual learning if they feel well enough.

- If you have been exposed to someone with confirmed COVID-19, you will be given information about quarantine.
 - If you are fully vaccinated and/or recently had confirmed COVID-19, you may not need to quarantine after an exposure. This will be discussed in your interview with a nurse from the Office of Health Services (employees) or school nurse (students).
 - There may be circumstances when close contacts of students with symptoms of COVID-19 will be instructed to quarantine while testing is obtained.
- Public Information and Community Notices
 - If a staff or student reports testing positive for COVID-19 and has been in the building when contagious, a community notice is sent to all who were in the building during the same time period.



COVID-19 Information

Office of Health Services 443-809-6368

- Baltimore County Public Schools' website has a dashboard that shows county-wide and BCPS cases of COVID-19.
 - The [dashboard](#) is updated weekly on Mondays.
 - The dashboard does not identify whether cases were of staff or students.
 - The case dates on the dashboard are dates the case was reported and may differ from time of actual illness.
 - Because notices are only distributed to persons in the school when an infected person was present and potentially contagious, the number of cases reported on the dashboard may be higher than the number of notices received from the school.
- The Maryland Department of Health website has a dashboard that shows identified outbreaks in schools across the state.
 - The [state outbreak dashboard](#) is updated weekly on Wednesdays.
 - The state considers a classroom or cohort to have an outbreak when two or more persons in the same classroom (or sports team or school bus) are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days.
- As a reminder, staff and students need to check for COVID-19 [symptoms](#) daily, and should not come to school or work if feeling unwell, if recently diagnosed with COVID-19, or if recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- If you have any questions about contact tracing or BCPS' response to cases of COVID-19, contact your school or building administration. You may also call the Office of Health Services 443-809-6368.