

Dear Wildcat Community,

We continue to work towards a safe and healthy opening of school on August 19. Undoubtedly, some elements of our reopening plans will evolve as we work through the remaining details and move into the first few weeks of the school year. We also anticipate that the guidance from public health officials will be refined as they learn more about the virus, particularly in school settings. Just this past week, two significant changes were made to the requirements for an individual to return to school after a positive test. Please know our plans will remain under a process of continual review and refinement.

As promised, I am sharing the current version of our plans regarding the handling of a student or faculty member who tests positive, shows symptoms, or has had a close contact exposure to someone who has either tested positive or is presumptively positive for COVID-19. While there is additional detail we can share, I have attached a scaled-down version of our response protocol. As you review it, I want to draw your attention to a few points:

- The CDC has emphasized the concept of “close contact” as it relates to possible exposure to someone who has symptoms or has tested positive with COVID-19. This definition is key to understanding your risk of infection and the need to quarantine. According to the CDC, close contact with someone who has tested positive for or has symptoms of COVID-19 involves one of the following:
 - You were within 6 feet of that person for at least 15 minutes
 - You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
 - You had direct physical contact with that person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
 - You shared eating or drinking utensils with that person
 - They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you
- Our goal at school is to minimize close contact to the greatest extent possible. The more closely everyone can adhere to expectations of personal responsibility (to stay home when sick or possibly exposed, to be vigilant in our personal hygiene, to remain at a safe distance from others while socializing, and to consistently wear and care for our masks) the more successfully we can control the spread and the more likely we can stay in school.
- Our effort to separate students by cohorts reduces potential exposures and makes contact tracing more effective. However, even students who are separated by cohort will have occasion to have *incidental contact* with their peers outside their cohort—walking in the hallways, in the lunch line, at recess, in the bathroom, etc. Rarely will a student have the opportunity to have *close contact* with a student in another cohort while at school.

The concept of close contact is a very important one for us to understand and it is key to many of our mitigation strategies and to our response to a positive test.

In the attached document, you will find:

- Definitions and Clarifications
- Responsibility to Notify
- School Communication Plans
- An Outline of our Response Protocol
- Guidelines for Returning to School

I also want to remind you that we will host another **Community Coffee tomorrow morning at 9am**. We had over 120 join us last week! You can find the Google Meet code [here](#) or phone in by calling 929-324-9439 PIN: 656 196 155#. Feel free to invite prospective families to the conversation as well. Bring your questions.

And finally, I want to let you know that we will post another **update to our Returning to Campus page next Tuesday**. That update will include updates to our FAQs that reflect the questions which may not have been effectively answered during our Coffee Q&A time. It will also include information on lunch service.

Stay positive and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

David B. Perkinson
Head of School

[Covid 19 Test Positive Protocols](#)