

# Quarantine FAQs

## 1. Who determines the guidelines of the quarantine process?

Guidelines are established by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and used by MN schools to determine quarantine in schools.

## 2. Who initiates the quarantine process?

A parent, coach, teacher, or public health representative notifies the school nurse that there is a positive case at Chapel Hill Academy. A COVID 19 test result must be used to identify a person with positive COVID 19.

## 3. What is a close contact?

In general, a close contact means being less than 6 feet from someone for 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period. However, even shorter periods of time or longer distances can result in spread of the virus. The longer someone is close to the person who has COVID-19, and the closer they are, the greater the chance the virus can spread. The infectious period begins two days before the person who is positive for COVID 19 develops symptoms or two days before someone without symptoms tests for COVID- 19.

## 4. What is the close contact tracing process at CHA?

The guidelines are established by the Minnesota Department of Health. The CHA nurse conducts the contact tracing process, which takes about two to three hours per positive case. The nurse speaks with the person who has been identified as a positive case to garner information as to the close contacts, beginning 48 hours of symptom onset or the test date. The parent of the student also gives input. Information is then gathered from all teachers, including classroom teachers and specialists, who have worked with the student on days that the COVID 19 positive person was considered infectious and in school. Classroom schedules, seating arrangements, grouping for activities, chapel, recess, lunch, carpool, busing, sports teams, parties, and gatherings outside of school are reviewed. The distance between classroom desks and/or chairs is also measured. The names of identified close contacts are cross-referenced with all information that has been gathered.

## 5. How is quarantine established?

Each scenario is complex and unique. After the close contacts are identified, a representative from the Public Health department is consulted on an as needed basis. Their guidance assists us in establishing the students that will enter quarantine. CHA and Eastern Carver County Schools (ECCS) are using the 14-day quarantine, recognizing that shortened quarantines have been allowed by MDH and CDC. At this time, CDC still recommends the 14- day quarantine.

## 6. What happens next?

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you will be notified by a phone message as well as with an email letter from the Public Health department. Please read the specific guidelines that are clearly delineated in the letter as this lists the date that your child may return to school. Your child must stay home from all activities until the 14-day quarantine has been completed. If you have further questions, please reach the nurse at [suras@chapel-hill.org](mailto:suras@chapel-hill.org)