

COVID-19 Terminology

Understanding COVID-19

What is a Point of Contact - P.O.C.?

An LEA (District) employee appointed to be responsible for contacting the School Hotline when a Confirmed Positive case of COVID-19 is identified within the LEA/District.

This person will work with other LEA personnel to identify any Probable Close Contacts within the LEA, share information with and be the liaison between the LEA and ADH.

This person must be accessible after school hours and during the weekend.



Understanding The Terminology


Probable Close Contact (PCC) - District identified individuals that have likely been within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24-hour period to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, during the infectious period. This person(s) will be expected to self-quarantine immediately for 14 days from the last date of contact with the positive case and await their Close Contact status to be confirmed by ADH Contact Tracing. A quick response to identify and quarantine will slow the possible transmission of the virus. The POC will notify probable close contacts initially.

Secondary Contact - An individual who has had contact with someone identified as a Close Contact to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. In most instances, these individuals will not require quarantine, but are encouraged to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Understanding The Terminology

Close Contact - An individual confirmed by ADH Contact Tracing who was within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24-hour period a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 during the infectious period. The Close Contact will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last date of contact with the infected person. It is highly recommended that all close contacts get tested for COVID-19, but individuals must complete the 14 days of quarantine even when the results are negative. They will be in contact with ADH for the duration of the quarantine period.


NOTE: a PCC might get a release letter, they may not. Very important to establish a return date and place it in the spreadsheet.



Understanding The Terminology

Quarantine - Required for someone identified as a Close Contact to a positive case of COVID-19. This person must remain at home and avoid all public activities for 14 days from the last date of contact with the positive case, even if they receive a negative test result. The incubation period in which symptoms of COVID-19 may develop is considered 14 days.


Isolation - Required for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This person must attempt to completely separate themselves from others for a minimum of 10 days; however, other criteria may apply when the person is either symptomatic or asymptomatic. The ADH Case Investigator will issue an official ADH letter of release when the individual is ready to return to work or school.



Understanding The Terminology

Case Investigator - A nurse from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) will be assigned to the case of the confirmed positive. This nurse will maintain communication with the positive case throughout the isolation period, and issue an official ADH letter of release when the individual is ready to return to work or school.

Contact Tracing - ADH Contact Tracers reach out to COVID-19 patients after a positive test result is confirmed in order to identify the patient's close contacts. The POC will not be responsible for contact tracing, but will work with other school personnel to identify Probable Close Contacts within the district and share that information with ADH for the purpose of Contact Tracing.



Understanding The Terminology

Incubation Period - The two days prior to the onset of symptoms or the two days prior to the test date, if asymptomatic, until the individual is released from isolation by ADH.

Infectious Period - The two days prior to the onset of symptoms or the two days prior to the test date, if asymptomatic, until the individual is released from isolation by ADH.

Basically, an individual's infectious period last about 10 days. The ADH will determine the length of time and will make the decision as to when a person may return to school or work. An individual who has tested positive must have an ADH "Release from Isolation" letter in order to return to school or work.



Understanding The Terminology

Symptomatic - Exhibiting or involving symptoms of an illness. Symptoms for COVID-19 may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Asymptomatic - Testing positive, but not exhibiting any symptoms. COVID-19 transmission in the absence of symptoms reinforces the value of measures that may prevent the spread by infected persons who may not exhibit symptoms despite being infectious.



Understanding The Terminology

Community Spread - People have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. The level of community spread within the State of Arkansas will be determined by the ADH. Factors used in determination may include active cases or growth rate within the community or region. Schools are encouraged to consult with ADH for guidance when determining a response level.



Important Notes

If you have had PCC, wait five days from last PCC before testing.

A negative rapid test result may be used to allow a student/staff member back to work who was showing S/S. It does not nullify the 14 day quarantine period for PCC.

If a student or staff member has PCC with a person positive of COVID-19, he/she must quarantine for 14 days, regardless whether either or both were wearing a face covering or utilizing a desk shield.

