

Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH)

Guidance for Prioritized Contact Tracing

Effective 1/11/2022

Contact tracing is a public health prevention tool to quickly support slowing the spread of COVID-19 by identifying individuals who need to quarantine. Based on data and the changing landscape of COVID-19 (including the surge of COVID-19 cases related to the Omicron variant, limited accessibility to COVID-19 testing, and optimizing staffing resources to support the COVID-19 response), MCOPH recommends prioritizing contract tracing for close contacts identified in settings in which correct and consistent mask usage may not be achieved and for individuals who may be at higher risk for severe COVID-19. Guidance is intended to support continuation of in-person learning and prioritization of limited resources.

Recommended priorities for contact tracing among K-12 school entities during School/School District Community Transmission in **High** (100 to > 100 cases per 100,000 or >10% positivity) OR **Substantial** (50-99.9 cases per 100,000 or 8-9.9% positivity) are detailed in the chart below.

Exposure Setting	Contact Tracing Type	Quarantine
High Risk Activities*	Full Contact Tracing	Quarantine individual(s) who have been within 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 case for 15 consecutive minutes. Schools/School Districts may utilized MCOPH’s Mask to Stay guidance to support in-school education.
Cafeteria/Lunch Room	Full Contact Tracing	Quarantine individual(s) who have been within 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 case for 15 consecutive minutes. Schools/School Districts may utilized MCOPH’s Mask to Stay guidance to support in-school education.
School Transportation-Bus	General Notification Letter to exposure settings. Additional notification should be provided to individuals who have medical exemptions to vaccination or masking exemption.	No Quarantine
Classroom(s)	General Notification Letter to exposure settings. Additional notification should be provided to individuals who have medical exemptions to vaccination or masking exemption.	No Quarantine

**High Risk Activities are those in which increased exhalation of respiratory fluids occurs, such as activities that involve physical exertion or raising of voice (sports, singing, shouting, band, or exercise).*