COVID-19 Close Contacts in Childcare/School Settings

**CDC Definition of a close contact:** A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Close contacts must be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19, unless both the case and their close contacts were wearing a mask at all times; this would exempt them from quarantine. Symptomatic close contacts should be referred to a health care provider for testing. Asymptomatic close contacts should be tested, ideally 7 – 10 days after last exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

The following list of potential close contacts to a confirmed case of COVID-19 is not all inclusive. Additional individuals may be considered close contacts depending on the setting, type of contact, or situation.

**Childcare:**
- Children/staff in the same room/cohort as a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- If a case in a staff member or child “floats” between rooms, then children/staff in each room will be considered close contacts unless the investigation indicates contact is less than 15 minutes or greater than six feet.

**Elementary School:**
- Children sitting in desks in front of, behind, or next to the confirmed case.
- Children sitting at the same table as the confirmed case.
- If children are cohorted or in pods, then the entire cohort or pod.
- Children eating lunch at the same table as the confirmed case.
- Children participating in extracurricular activities with the confirmed case.
- Children participating in close contact sports or physical education with the confirmed case.
- Children participating in choir or band with the confirmed case.
- Staff who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
- If children routinely mix/interact with each other in the classroom setting, then the entire classroom will be considered close contacts.

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Children sitting next to, in front of or behind a case on a bus.
Children carpooling to school with a case.
Family members living in the same household as a case.
If unable to identify close contacts of a case in a classroom or other (gym, dining hall, sporting venues, etc.) setting, School should send out alerts to others in the same classroom to watch for symptoms and contact a health care provider if symptoms develop.

Middle/High School:
Children sitting in desks in front of, behind, or next to the confirmed case.
Children sitting at the same table as the confirmed case.
Children eating lunch at the same table as the confirmed case.
Children participating in extracurricular activities with the confirmed case.
Children participating in close contact sports or physical education with the confirmed case.
Children participating in choir or band with the confirmed case.
Staff who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
Close friends of a confirmed case.
Children sitting next to, in front of or behind a case on a bus.
Children carpooling to school with a case.
Family members living in the same household as a case.
If unable to identify close contacts of a case in a classroom or other (gym, dining hall, sporting venues, etc.) setting, School should send out alerts to others in the same classroom to watch for symptoms and contact a health care provider if symptoms develop.

University:
Roommates of a confirmed case.
Students sitting within six feet of a case in a classroom or other setting.
Students participating in extracurricular activities with the confirmed case.
Students participating in close contact sports or physical education with the confirmed case.
Students participating in choir or band with the confirmed case.
Staff who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
Close friends of a confirmed case.
Co-workers who are in close contact, as defined by CDC, with a confirmed case.
Family members living in the same household as a case.
If unable to identify close contacts of a case in a classroom or other (gym, dining hall, sporting venues, etc.) setting, University should send out alerts to others in the same classroom to watch for symptoms and contact a health care provider if symptoms develop.

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