

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 from community testing, they should not go to school. Your family might be asked to quarantine in your home or at a government facility.

If your child tests positive at the School Based Testing, your school principal or designee will call to let you know the results.

This is what may happen:

1. Your child will wait in the isolation room at the school.
2. Your principal, director or designee will call you to tell you that your child tested positive and that you will be contacted by the contact tracing team for next steps.
3. The screening team from CHCC will let the contact tracing team know that your child tested positive.
4. Your principal will let the contact tracing team know if you have any other kids in the school or at other PSS schools. The contact tracing team will also ask about how many members live in your home.
5. The contact tracing team will take your child, and may take your whole family to Kanoa for the PCR test to make sure the results are positive.

If you have to quarantine, you can call your child's school to ask about online classes or to talk to someone about getting help for your child if they are anxious. Once you get clearance from the COVID-19 Task Force to leave quarantine, your child can return to school.

If you live on Tinian or Rota, the COVID-19 Task Force will communicate with the Health Center to provide information on quarantine and coordinate care until you can be transported to Saipan for monitoring/treatment.

What do I do if my child's classmate or teacher tests positive?

If the COVID-19 Task Force doesn't call you to tell you to quarantine, you don't have to self-isolate. The contact tracing team will identify close contacts and call them directly. If your child is called, the task force will let you know what to do next.

If your child doesn't get called but starts showing symptoms (coughing, fever, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell), do not send your child to school. Call your doctor or talk to your primary care provider to ask if your child needs to be tested. If your child needs to be tested, do not send your child to school until they have a negative result. If your doctor says your child doesn't need to be tested, send your child to school when they are no longer sick.

If you live in Tinian or Rota and you are worried, call or register for testing at your health center.

What is a 'close contact' or Person Under Investigation (PUI)?

Close contacts or PUIs are people who have been around a positive case for more than 15 minutes, less than 6 feet and without being masked. Close contacts are sometimes people who live in the same home or someone your child plays with most of the time.

Close contacts or PUIs are not people in the same classroom like the teacher or your child's classmates because the risk of getting COVID-19 is much lower at school than in a home or at a gathering.

What will happen if there is a case of COVID-19 in my child's school?

1. Your child's school will work with the COVID-19 Task Force to isolate anyone who tests positive and will sanitize the classroom or building.
2. The Task Force will start calling close contacts to test or quarantine them.
3. Your child's school might go online for a few days or might stay open based on the Commissioner's consultation with the COVID-19 Task Force and the State Board of Education.

Remember that the positive cases will not be in your child's school until they recover and the risk of your child getting COVID-19 is very low because the school requires masks, social distancing, and sanitizing. You do not need to self-quarantine unless you are called by the contact tracing team and asked to do so.

How will the Task Force get close contact information?

The contact tracing team will ask you questions about who your child spends time with. Sometimes they will ask your school principal or your child's teacher but your child's health information will stay private.

Will parents inform the school of positive cases?

No. The COVID-19 Task Force will only inform parents, but if you want to let your child's principal or teacher know, you can reach out to them to know why your child is absent without sharing results. You can say you were contacted and following safety measures from the task force. Your child's health information is private and you don't have to share your child's results with anyone.

If my child is positive, are my child's classmates or teacher/school at risk?

Schools have many safety measures in place so that everyone is protected from getting COVID-19. The task force will begin their contact tracing and your child's school will begin sanitizing.

PSS has a very high vaccination rate for staff and will continue to follow the 3 W's:

1. Wear a mask
2. Watch your distance
3. Wash your hands

PSS also does temperature checks and works with the COVID-19 Task Force to make sure students and staff are screened when needed and can be vaccinated should they choose to do so.

How long will my child be contagious if they test positive?

Your child will not be contagious for very long. Usually, people who recover from COVID-19 are no longer contagious 10 days after they test positive.

What if my child is identified as a close contact but they are fully vaccinated? Do they have to self-quarantine?

It depends. If the contact tracing team asks them to get tested and they are positive, they might need to quarantine. The contact tracing team may also ask you to have your child home quarantine until they get their test results. If they test negative they can go back to school.

Can members of my family who are close contacts go to school or work?

It depends. If the contact tracing team identifies them as close contacts, they might have to self-quarantine until they get their test results. If they were not identified as close contact, and they don't have symptoms, they can go to school or work. If you are not sure or feel nervous, you can register for community based testing at covidtesting.chcc.health.

I heard that someone from the school has been identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19 – why hasn't the COVID-19 Task Force contacted me?

If you are not a close contact or PUI, you will not be called for contact tracing. If you had close contact with the positive case or you are worried, you can call your school principal or teacher or you can register for testing for peace of mind.

Will my child's or other children's results be shared with the school or district?

The COVID-19 Task Force communicates directly with parents/guardians and does not share that information with the school unless the testing is done at the school and the principal calls families to inform them.

Can the school share a name of the student or staff member who is a confirmed case of COVID-19?

No, the school cannot share the name of the person who has tested positive for COVID-19. This information is private and confidential. Close contacts will not be told the name of the confirmed case.

Can anyone else force me to share my child's information?

No. No other parent, employer, colleague, government employee, school employee, or individual can make you share your child's health information. Your family's health information is private and you have the right not to share.

How will COVID-19 stay in my child’s system and can it be detected in a test after they recover?

The COVID-19 virus can be detected up to 90 days after your child recovers. Your child will not be contagious anymore but that doesn’t mean they will never get COVID-19 again.

What if the newspaper or news contact the school, will they share my child’s information?

Even if the news contacts your child’s school, their health information is private and will not be shared. The school can share how many test positive and how they are working with the task force, but they will never share names or information that will identify your child or other children.

How will the school or teachers treat my child after they recover and go back?

Your child will be cared for and given the same treatment as every student. The school might monitor their health to make sure they are strong and not showing symptoms but they will always communicate with you when they do.

Who can I talk to if I have any more questions?

As always, you can talk to, call, or email your child’s principal or teacher. You can also call PSS or email the department you have questions or concerns about. To find the contact information, you can go to cnmipss.org. You can also call the contact tracing team at [670-287-1729/22](tel:670-287-1729/22) if you have questions about exposure to positive individuals or tracing procedures.

