

Some questions have come up often that we wanted to address:

What happens if someone in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19? What happens if my child is considered a close contact to the positive student? Will each family be alerted if there is a positive case in the classroom, or just the close contacts? (Per Indiana State Board of Health)

- The positive student will immediately be told to isolate at home for at least 10 days from the date the symptoms started (symptomatic) or the day the test was taken (asymptomatic). Before returning to school, after the 10 day isolation period, the student must also be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, AND had resolution of all symptoms.
- After SJGS has been made aware of a positive case, we will work closely with the St. Joseph County Health Department to begin contact tracing. SJGS will provide the HD with the positive student's seating chart and cohort class schedule, which will help to identify any close contacts. Close contacts are any student or staff who was within 6ft of the positive student for 15 minutes or longer, 48 hours *before* either the symptoms started OR the day the test was taken.
- Depending on the situation, close contacts will be notified via telephone *either* by the St. Joseph County Health Department, or SJGS administration or school nurse, whichever process can happen sooner. If your child is determined to be a close contact, they will need to quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. If feeling well, they will be able to take part in virtual learning with their class. It is also recommended that close contacts notify their primary care provider for further recommendations.
- If at any point during the 14 day quarantine, the close contact develops symptoms, it is recommended they get tested.
- If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested and receives a negative result, they *still need to quarantine for the entire 14 days, as they could still develop the virus after exposure anytime during the 14 day quarantine.*
- If more than 2 students in one class test positive, it is recommended that the entire class quarantine for 14 days.

Knowing that our SJGS community is considered an extension of our personal families, in the case that a single student in one classroom is diagnosed with COVID-19, in addition to the close contacts being alerted, a separate classroom email will be sent to the student's families to make them aware of the situation. In this way, the classroom families are aware of the situation and can help discuss the situation with their child,

and lessen any fear that they may have. Please note, due to privacy regulations, the name of the student diagnosed with COVID-19 will not be released, nor will any potentially identifiable information. Families will simply be made aware that there is a positive case in their classroom, and whether or not they are a close contact will be communicated to them (as stated above).

In addition to the measures taken to isolate COVID-19 positive students and quarantine close contacts, SJGS will also work closely with the St. Joseph County Health Department will also help us to determine appropriate cleaning and disinfecting due to the positive case, over and above the heightened cleaning and disinfecting that is already taking place. Our SJGS custodial staff will pay special attention to:

- Classroom high touch areas, including desks, chairs, dividers, door knobs, light switches, etc.
- Common areas, including restrooms, handrails, door knobs, etc.

Based on the direction of the St. Joseph County Health Department, and depending on the situation, we may be advised to announce a short term school closure for 2-5 days. This would allow for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This would also allow the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19. Again this would be on a case by case basis .