

## **COVID-19 Questions and Answers (Q & A)**

**7.17.20 Q- When will ADHS release guidance on threshold information for CCHHS to advise schools as Governor Ducey and Dr. Crist promised?**

A- ADHS is working with local health departments to develop tools to help advise schools based on local transmission characteristics.

**7.17.20 Q- Will public health receive waivers similar to what we received for First Responders to disclose to school officials when employees/students are COVID19 positive? If not, how will schools be notified when they have a positive staff member or student?**

A- Schools will be contacted by local public health in the event that case investigation determines any concern for transmission within the school. Families and school staff should be encouraged to notify schools if students or staff are COVID+ or have COVID+ or suspect persons in their households, similar to how they are encouraged to notify schools for other communicable diseases.

**7.17.20 Q Will a statewide face covering policy be put in place for schools? Public health is being asked to require this and we do not have the authority to do this except through County resolutions which for the most part only cover unincorporated areas, which have few schools.**

A- There is no order currently mandating CFCs in schools. The ADE Roadmap for opening schools recommends the use of CFCs when physical distancing cannot be maintained. LEAs can develop policies for CFC use within their schools.

**7.17.20 Q Will ADHS provide cleaning guidelines for classrooms, common spaces such as cafeterias, restrooms, etc. after a COVID19 exposure? CDC guidelines do not address how this should be handled, for instance if a teacher/student is positive and has spent considerable time in a classroom should the classroom be cleaned and unoccupied for 72 hours? What about the common areas the teacher/student also occupied?**

A- Recommendations for cleaning classrooms are included in the ADE roadmap . Routine cleaning should be in place with increased attention to frequently touched surfaces. There is no indication to leave a space unoccupied following an exposure after routine cleaning has been completed.

**7.17.20 Q Will ADHS be providing masks to school districts? If not, how are schools supposed to access those supplies?**

A. Public Health does not have enough stock to supply schools. There is not a plan for ADHS to supply masks. Schools and LEAs should work with families and communities to ensure students have CFCs. CFCs can be likened to other items of clothing. Just as schools may have drives to keep clean socks and underwear on hand to assist students/families in need, CFCs can be seen in the same way. CFCs are NOT medical masks, which schools should keep a limited supply of. Some counties have provided PPE starter packs to get schools started.

**7.17.20 Q Will additional nursing staff be provided to schools, particularly rural schools as they may only have a nurse for a partial day or one full day each week?**

A. There is no plan to provide nursing staff. Each school should identify a point person for COVID-19 who is aware of current recommendations including isolation and quarantine of sick and exposed students to help guide staff, families and students with questions

**7.5.20 Q What protocols should a school district or charter school follow if they have reason to believe a staff member has been exposed to COVID-19?**

A. See YCESA.com for an attachment from the Trust (School District liability provider) written by a group of well respected Arizona Education attorneys.

**7.4.20 Q What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

A. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- This list does not include all possible symptoms

**7.2.20 Q- Should k-12 schools conduct universal coronavirus testing for students and staff when reopening this fall and should school staff be expected to directly administer tests.**

A. No to both questions, says the CDC.

**6.29.20, Q- How long must a student or staff member remain home if they are positive for COVID-19?**

A. 14 days, and this includes siblings or staff member children.