

NCS COVID Protocols Update

1/25/22

Per NC DHHS, these are the updated protocols for individuals who are symptomatic, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have a close contact and/or unmasked exposure to a COVID-positive person. Please note that these protocols only apply in **mask-required school settings**.*

If you have questions about other quarantine, isolation, or exclusion rules, you can refer to pages 15-16 of the [NC Strong Schools Toolkit](#).

Scenario	Action
Individual has close contact with COVID positive individual (including unmasked exposure during lunch or extracurricular activities) <i>outside of the home</i>	Individual does not need to quarantine & may return to school with these restrictions for 10 days beginning the day after exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a well-fitting mask fully and completely in school settings, <i>including at all times during athletics & extracurriculars</i>• Social distance as best as possible during lunch & snack time
Individual has tested positive OR Individual is symptomatic OR Individual has someone in their home who is COVID positive	Individual does need to quarantine* from school for 5 days. For 5 additional days after returning to school, the individual must <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a well-fitting mask fully and completely in school settings, <i>including at all times during athletics & extracurriculars</i>• Social distance as best as possible during lunch & snack time

*The quarantine rules apply to those who are unvaccinated persons and not included in the 90-day window.

Per NC DHHS, these are the updated protocols for individuals who are symptomatic, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have a close contact and/or unmasked exposure to a COVID-positive person. Please note that these protocols only apply in **mask-optional school settings**.

Scenario	Action
<p>Individual has close contact with COVID positive individual (including unmasked exposure during lunch or extracurricular activities) <i>outside of the home</i> OR</p> <p>Individual tests positive for COVID-19 OR</p> <p>Individual is symptomatic OR</p> <p>Individual has someone in their home who is COVID positive and the individual can isolate from the COVID positive person</p>	<p>Individual must quarantine from school and all extra-curricular activities & may not return to school for 5 days beginning the day after exposure. For 5 additional days after returning to school, the individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear a well-fitting mask fully and completely in school settings, <u><i>including at all times during athletics & extracurriculars</i></u> ● Social distance as best as possible during lunch & snack time
<p>Individual has someone in their home who is COVID positive and the individual CANNOT isolate from the COVID positive person</p>	<p>Individual must quarantine and all extra-curricular activities & may not return to school for 10 days beginning the day after exposure. For 5 additional days after returning to school, the individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear a well-fitting mask fully and completely in school settings, <u><i>including at all times during athletics & extracurriculars</i></u> ● Social distance as best as possible during lunch & snack time

*The quarantine rules apply to non-vaccinated persons and those not included in the 90-day window.

Please note that while the vast majority of the toolkit is optional guidance, pages 15-16 of the 1.10.2022 toolkit are not. ***Schools must comply with pages 15-16 because these two pages are based on independent North Carolina statutory and regulatory requirements* that schools must follow.*** This means that even if there were no Strong Schools Toolkit, schools would still have to follow pages 15-16 because they are required by North Carolina laws and regulations related to communicable diseases. In essence, pages 15-16 of the Toolkit explain what schools must do to be in compliance with these laws and regulations.

*NCGS 130A-136, NCGS 130A-144(g), NCGS 130A-144(f),NCGS 130A-144(a), 10A NCAC .0103(a), 10A NCAC 41A .0101, 10A NCAC 41A .0107, 10 NCAC 41A .0201(b)(1), 10 NCAC 41A .0201