



Quarantine for Livingston County K-12 Public and Private School Students

Livingston County Health Department
2021-2022 School Year



What is a Close Contact?

- Individuals that have been exposed to COVID-19 are called close contacts.
- For COVID-19, a close contact is most often someone that has been within 6 feet (about 2 arm's' length) of an infectious person for at least 15 minutes of cumulative time.
 - Exception: In the K-12 classroom/ bus setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of a COVID-19 case if universal masking is employed
- Every case is different, however, and LCHD considers how COVID-19 is spread and how we get infected when providing guidance to schools for close contact identification.
- Close contacts are at higher risk of getting sick.





Public Health Background

- Quarantine of close contacts is a **fundamental practice** in public health
- Quarantine **prevents exposed individuals from exposing others** if they become ill
- **LCHD will continue to quarantine individuals who are exposed (close contacts)**





Considerations

- **Home quarantine results in loss of educational opportunity for students**
- **Exposures in controlled settings (bus, classroom) results in relatively low number of close contacts becoming ill**
 - Not true of extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.)
 - Not true of household exposures
 - These other settings have high number of close contacts who develop COVID-19 illness
- **Different situation than last year:**
 - Layered prevention techniques may not be universally applied (specifically masks)
 - Delta variant is more transmissible (2x as much as original strain)
 - Vaccines are more widely available (but not for all ages)
 - New therapeutics for exposed and/or infected individuals





Recent Infection and COVID-19 Vaccination Status

Exposed staff and students do not need to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic and meet one of the following criteria:

- Fully vaccinated
 - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
 - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- Recent COVID-19 infection
 - Individuals who have had a COVID-19 infection with a symptom onset or test collection date (if asymptomatic) within the last 90 days

Fully vaccinated individuals are recommended to be tested 3-5 days after an exposure to COVID-19 and wear a mask for 14 days or until a negative COVID-19 test result is recorded.





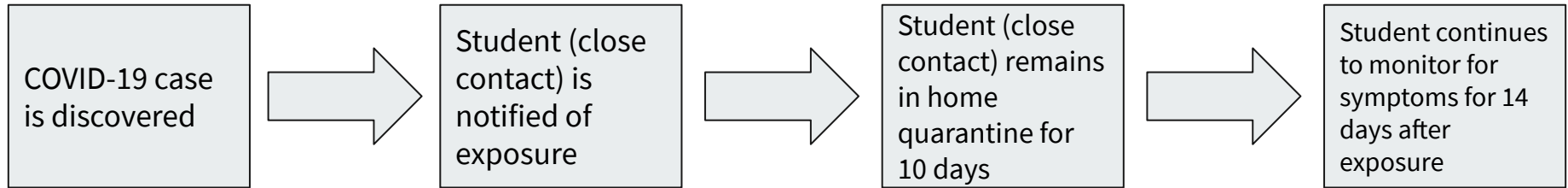
Approach

- **Standard Home Quarantine** is the default for all exposures
- Students may have the option for an **Alternate Quarantine** if the exposure occurs in the classroom or bus setting





Standard Home Quarantine

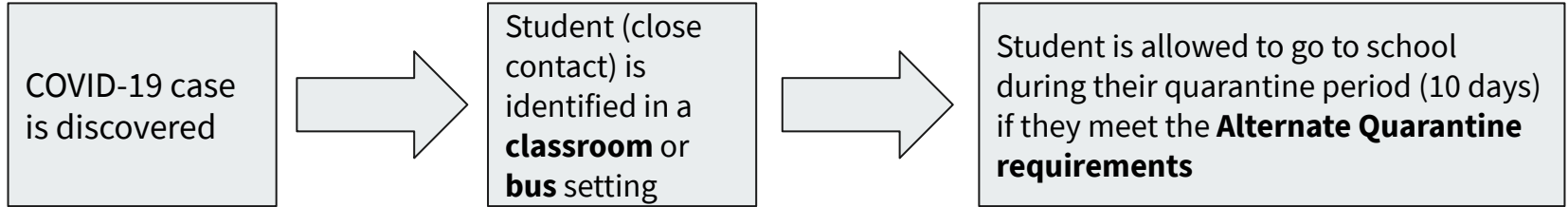


After quarantine period, student is allowed to return to school if the student remains **asymptomatic**





Alternate Quarantine





Alternate Quarantine Requirements

- Remain asymptomatic (without symptoms)
- Wear a well fitting mask while at school and bus
- Undergo **DAILY** at-home testing (Free Test Kits Provided by LCHD or can get testing through provider)
- Complete **DAILY** symptom screening
- Isolate immediately if they develop symptoms or test positive
- Remain in quarantine for all activities outside of attending class or riding bus (excluding lunch*)
 - *Remain socially distant while mask is off and eating/drinking





Alternate Quarantine

HOME → (BUS) → CLASS → (BUS) → HOME

Allowed

- Riding the bus to and from school (with mask)
- Attending class (with mask)
- Removing mask for eating/drinking during lunch (MUST remain socially distanced)

Not Allowed

- Extracurricular school activities (including sports, clubs, etc.)
- Working or other activities outside of the school setting
- Sleepovers, outings with friends, etc.





Quarantine Notification Process

Applies to all students

- Schools and LCHD undergo contact tracing (no change)
- School sends close contact spreadsheet to LCHD school liaison (no change)
- LCHD uploads close contact information for quarantine notification (new)
- Parents of exposed students receive text message and email from LCHD (new)
- If exposure was in classroom / bus setting, the message gives parents the option to enroll in standard home quarantine OR alternate quarantine (new)
 - Parents must select an option **prior to 6am** the next day. If no option is selected, the student is automatically enrolled in standard home quarantine and asked to stay home
- If exposed outside of a bus/class setting, parents only have option for standard home quarantine (new)
- Once an option is selected, the parent/guardian is directed to an information page with additional details and asked to enter registration information about the student (new)






Alternate Quarantine - Masks

- Students who enroll in alternate quarantine must wear a well-fitting mask (cloth or surgical) to school during their quarantine period
- Students are expected to wear a mask at all times while indoors
- Students can remove masks to eat or drink while indoors but must remain socially distanced from others





Alternate Quarantine - Symptom Screening

- Parents will receive daily notification via text or email to enter information about student symptoms
- Parents with symptomatic students will be asked to isolate students and have them undergo PCR testing
 - LCHD will contact parents to confirm symptoms
- If no symptoms are present, no additional steps are needed
- If daily symptom screening is missed for 1 day, parents will be reminded via text or email to enter symptoms
- If daily symptom screening is missed for 2 consecutive days, parents will be contacted and asked to quarantine student at home (standard quarantine) for the remainder of the quarantine period



Alternate Quarantine - Testing

- Partnership with NIH and University of Massachusetts
- LCHD and schools have obtained free, at-home rapid antigen tests for use in this initiative
- Tests results are available within 15 minutes at home (not sent out)
- Approved for ages 2 and older
- Parents can choose to undergo provider testing (through urgent care, clinic, pharmacy) but results must be available within 24 hours



Alternate Quarantine - Testing

- Parents/Guardians of students enrolled in Alternate Quarantine **must pick up first tests from LCHD** same day as notification or the next day (2300 East Grand River Rd #102, Howell, MI)
 - Hours:
 - Monday-Friday 8:30a - 5p
 - Saturday 9a-11a (for Friday notifications only)
 - Under extenuating circumstances (job hours, lack of transportation, etc.) parents can wait for tests to be mailed but must contact LCHD at covid19@livgov.com or 517-546-9850 to explain the circumstance
 - **DO NOT CONTACT LCHD REGARDING KIT PICK UP PRIOR TO NOTIFICATION VIA TEXT OR EMAIL**
- Parents are **automatically mailed the remainder of the tests** to the address entered during enrollment (free 2 day shipping)





Alternate Quarantine - Testing

- Tests are designed to be easy to use for all
- Can be done within 15 minutes at home
- Parents/Guardian - if your student is under 12 years of age, please assist them with the nasal swabbing
- A text or email will be sent on the appropriate days to remind parents to test
- The reminder will also provide a link to 1) enter results and 2) upload the picture of the results
 - If you choose to have your student tested at a clinic, you will need to upload a picture of the results





Alternate Quarantine - Testing

- If test results are not entered online on the due date, parents will receive a reminder (text or email) to enter the results
- If test results are not entered within 2 days, parents will be contacted and asked to keep their students at home (standard home quarantine) for the remainder of their quarantine period





End of Quarantine

- Parents will receive a message (text or email) at the end of alternate quarantine as a reminder that the quarantine period has ended
- If there are extra test kits, you can continue to use them or save them for a future use





Special Circumstances

- If there are multiple exposures, parents will receive a message indicating that the quarantine period has been extended due to a more recent exposure
- Parents can change from alternate option to a standard home quarantine during the quarantine period (ALTERNATE → STANDARD **Allowed**)
- Parents are currently not able to change from standard home quarantine to an alternate option during the quarantine period (STANDARD → ALTERNATE **Not Allowed**)





Is the Alternate Quarantine safe?

- Similar approach (alternate or modified quarantine) being undertaken by California and Illinois
- UK study demonstrated that serial testing can be done as an alternative to home quarantine without increasing school transmission
- US study demonstrated that serial testing (minimum 2-3 times per week) is very sensitive in detecting illness
- Combining source control (masks) and serial testing further increases protection





Caveats

- Initiative is dependent on:
 - Low incidence of COVID-19 among close contacts exposed in school
 - No evidence of increased in-school transmission
 - Cooperation from parents/guardians
- Alternate option can be suspended for a single classroom exposure if a school based outbreak is detected
- May suspend initiative (as a whole) if the above assumptions do not hold true





Parent/Guardian Cooperation

- Intervention uses at-home testing to improve access and reduce burden from schools
- Critical that parents perform test in the manner described and honestly report results
- If compliance is low:
 - This puts those around the student at risk
 - Will affect the ability for this intervention to move forward which may result in more absences
- If any requirement is not possible, please do not enroll student in the alternate quarantine option. Instead, enroll them into standard home quarantine.





Other Details

- Text or Email Notification
 - Notification time will be in early afternoon (~11am) or early evening (~6pm) depending on when case investigation is conducted
- If case investigation by LCHD is not done by 6pm, the parent/guardian may be contacted by the school to ask them to stay home from school
- Will a parent/guardian get a choice of standard or alternate quarantine for each school exposure?
 - Yes! For every classroom or bus exposure, parents.guardians will be given the opportunity to enroll in one of the two quarantine options.





Testing for Classroom Contacts and School Community

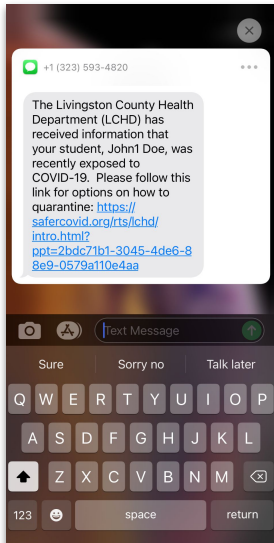
COMING SOON!

LCHE is additionally working with the NIH to offer free at-home testing for classroom contacts and the greater school community through academic partners.

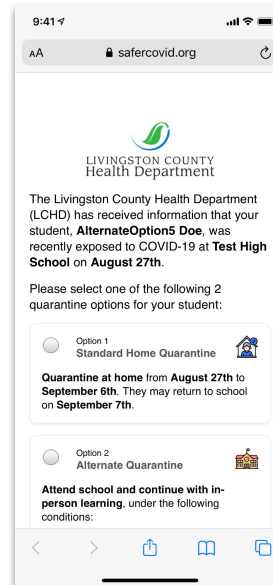
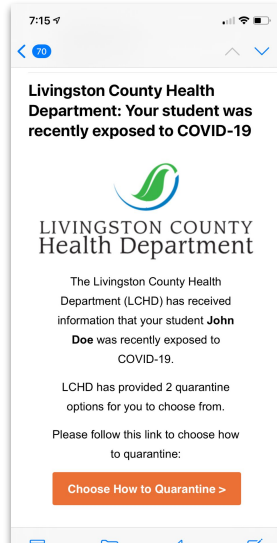
This information will be released in a supplemental document



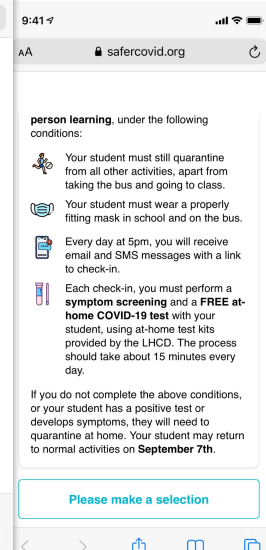
Enrolling in Alternate Quarantine



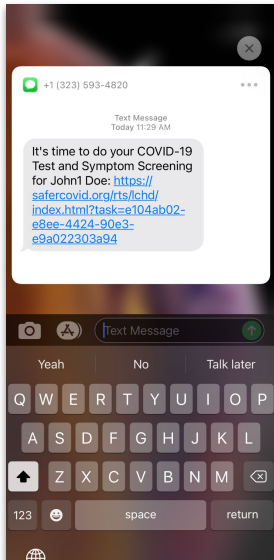
SMS/Email Notification of Close Contact



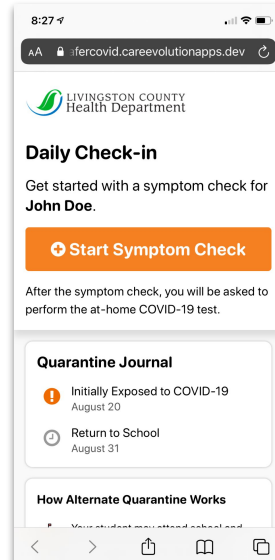
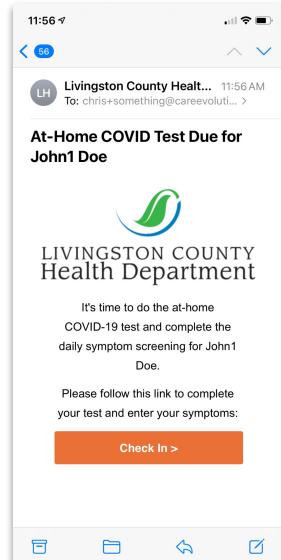
Option to Enroll in Alternate Quarantine



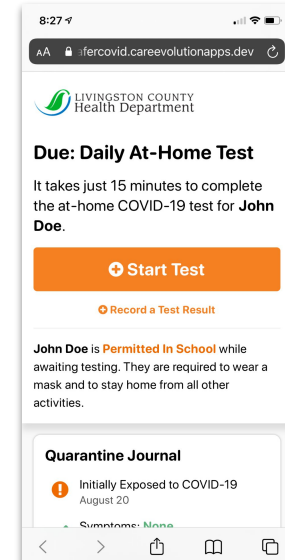
Daily Check-In at 5pm Every Day



Daily Check-in Notification Sent at 5pm

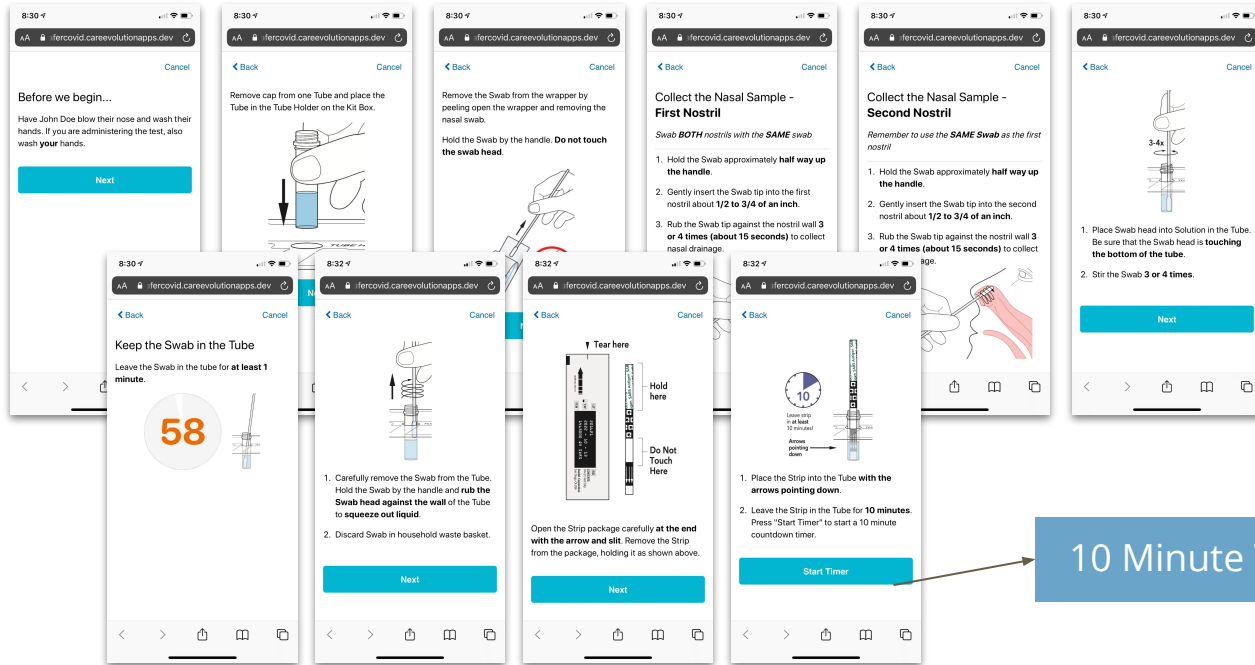


Symptom Screening

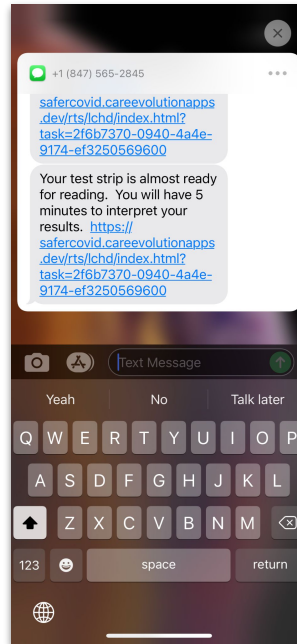
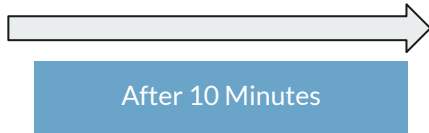
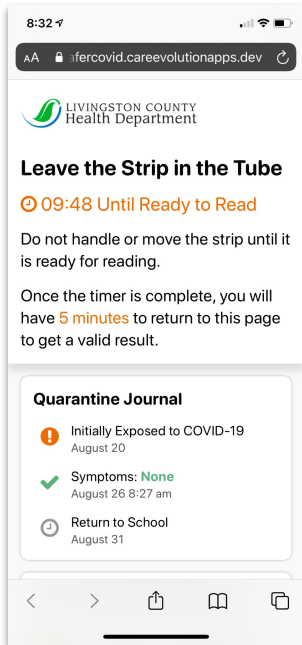


At-Home Test

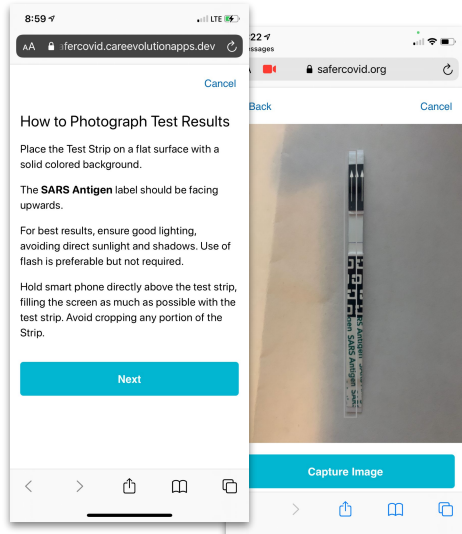
Starting the At-Home Test



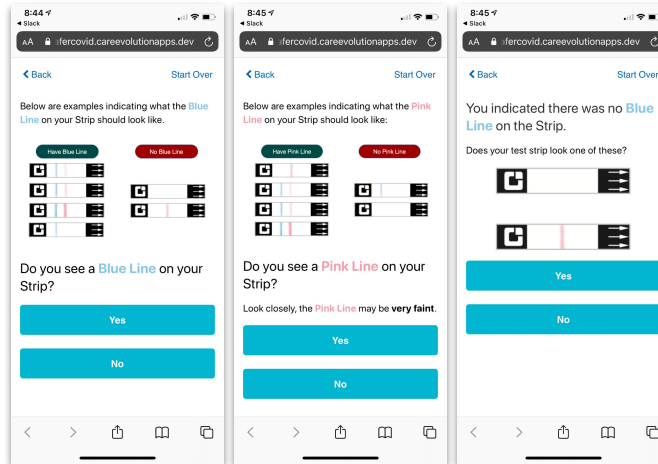
10 Minute Timer - Notification Sent When Ready



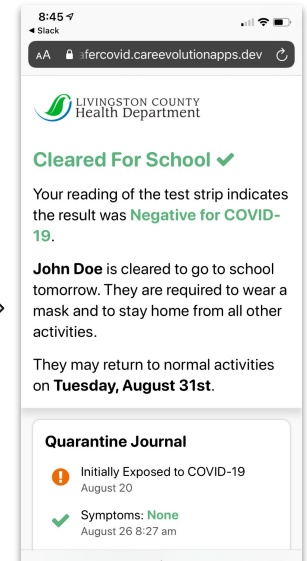
Interpreting your Test Strip



Submit Photo of Test Strip

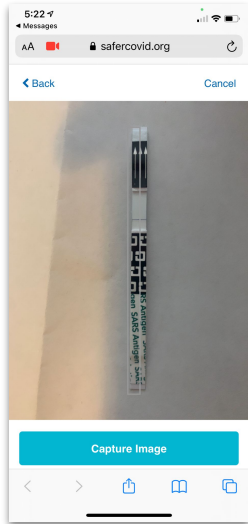


Interpret Result



Cleared for School

@Home Daily Testing



TEST STRIP

SWAB

TUBE HOLDER

TUBE



TEST STRIP



Questions?

For more information about Standard and Alternate Quarantine,

please email COVID19@livgov.com or

visit the LCHD School Quarantine webpage <https://bit.ly/3Bws04r>

