

Changes to the School Reopening guidance document published August 20, 2020 from the initial version published August 10, 2020 include:

Change to the definition of close contact to a positively confirmed individual. All individuals within a classroom exposed to a positively confirmed individual would no longer be recommended to stay home. This definition has been narrowed to include only those having any physical contact or a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more **within 6 feet of the positively confirmed individual.**

It is imperative to support this change through use of adequate face coverings or masks, rather than simple cloth coverings. Fit of the face covering worn by the student or staff member is critical to reducing risk of exposure and transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Change to the key metric for decision-making regarding district-wide shift to virtual instruction and inclusion of additional metrics to be continuously monitored and evaluated by JCHD. The key metric to be used has been changed to the Daily Case Incidence, measured as a 7-day rolling average. The Jefferson County incidence is adjusted and reported as a rate per 100,000 individuals to align with the guidelines provided by Harvard Global Health Institute in their framework: [Key Metrics for COVID Suppression](#) and [The Path to Zero and Schools: Achieving Pandemic Resilient Teaching and Learning Spaces](#). In addition to the change in the metric recommended for decision-making, there are now several risk levels that call for respective shifts to virtual instruction, and for various grade levels. Additional metrics that will be considered include: percent positivity, community spread, contact tracing capacity and function, hospitalization rates and hospital capacity, access to testing, and holistic components like mental health of school-age youth and childcare.

Change to the criteria and number of symptoms that call for a student or staff member to be sent home. Previously, any one symptom would require that a student or staff member be sent home. The duration of that time is the same, (3 days to observe resolution of symptoms, 10 days if symptoms persist or worsen). The updated guidance contains a chart with 2 sets of symptoms – one of which calls for the student or staff to be sent home if any ONE is present, while the other set would call for the student or staff to be sent home if any TWO are present. In addition, the recommendation has been added that school-based health care providers or teachers send students home per the above recommendations if they have taken any medications (e.g, ibuprofen, Tylenol) to reduce fever in the last 24 hours.

Change to the duration of a classroom closure in the event of a positively confirmed case. Duration of closure of a classroom or other room in which a positively confirmed individual was present (for a cumulative 15 minutes or more) has been changed to 2 days from the previous 3 days. It is still highly recommended those sanitation staff not enter the room for 24 hours to allow viral particles to settle. After 24 hours, sanitation staff should utilize proper PPE and EPA-approved disinfectants to clean and sanitize the room and all surfaces.