

# SHERIDAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## 2021-2022 REOPENING PLAN

Updated 12/6/2021



## Index

Introduction	Page 1	Extracurricular Activities	Page 10
Summary	Page 2	Field Trips	Page 10
Academics	Page 3	Immunizations	Page 11
Attendance	Page 3	Masks	Page 11
Back to School Events	Page 3	Mental Health/Counseling	Page 12
Cafeteria	Pages 4-5	Nurse/School Clinic	Page 12
Calendar/Schedule	Page 6	Restrooms	Page 12
Classroom Practices	Page 6	Screening	Page 13
Cleaning	Page 7	Social Distancing	Page 13
Communication/Data	Page 7	Transportation	Page 13
Contact Tracing	Pages 7-8	Travel/Vacations	Page 14
COVID-19/Illness	Pages 8-9	Virtual Learning	Page 14
eLearning	Page 10	Visitors/Volunteers	Page 14
		Addendum on Quarantine (Added 12-6-21)	Page 15-17

# INTRODUCTION

SUPERINTENDENT MARY ROBERSON

Dear Families:

The past year has been historical, and we know that for many families the year has included hardships and heartbreak related to the pandemic. In addition, we know that there were academic challenges related to extended eLearning and absences.

Although a year ago, we had much uncertainty, we were able to open schools, and thanks to the courage and commitment of our students, staff, and community we remained open, with a few bumps, throughout the year. Now we look to 2021-2022. We are ready to open school with as much normalcy as possible!

We have been closely monitoring the situation, looking at data from last year, and consulting a variety of sources to make decisions about the 2021-2022 school year. This year the Governor has placed decisions in the hands of local schools, so we are doing our best to create a plan that keeps our students and staff safe while meeting the needs of the community. We take the obligation of caring for your children very seriously and are grateful for your support and trust. We have worked very hard to research, listen to the experts, and listen to you, our most important stakeholders.

Our current plan is to open school in-person at Sheridan Elementary, Sheridan Middle School, and Sheridan High School on a regular schedule, with the first student day scheduled for Monday, August 9, 2021. In order to protect students and staff, protocols will be in place, which are described in this document.

As was announced previously, SCS will not offer a "virtual learning program" universally this year. Our hope is that students will be able to return to in-person learning. We also understand that there may be unique circumstances that warrant a remote learning option. This is something we have done for years, not just during a pandemic. If your child has a health reason or other unique situation that suggests he/she may need a different learning option, please contact your building level principal. Please be aware that state guidelines for virtual learning are stringent for public schools moving forward, so we are more limited in who qualifies.

Our caring and dedicated teachers will continue to provide quality education to our students, although we recognize that teaching strategies may need to be modified somewhat to promote social distancing. We do hope that compared to last school year, things will return to a more "normal" state, but there will be modifications needed in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We will continually monitor the situation and may need to make adjustments. In other words, if we have a significant number of positive cases, we may need to add more stringent mitigation strategies to our plan based on guidance from the state and county. We are grateful for your ongoing understanding and support.

Thank you for partnering with us for your children's education. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have questions or concerns.

Most sincerely,  
Mary Roberson, Superintendent  
mroberson@sheridan.k12.in.us

# SUMMARY

## Highlights of Plan

- All students will attend in-person every school day and schools will be at full capacity, as in a normal school year.
- Face coverings are recommended for all students and staff (but not required).
- Currently a federal mandate requires masks on buses, so until that is lifted, masks will be required on buses.
- Social distancing will be practiced when possible.
- Visitors will still be limited in the buildings.
- The COVID vaccine is not required, but is available for students and staff ages 12 and above.
- We will host some in-person back to school events/open houses.
- Clubs will operate in-person.
- Field trips will return, as possible based on venue/location.
- Water fountains will remain closed at elementary and open at HS/MS, although water bottles are still encouraged.
- Students may share school or art supplies, sanitizing hands before and after use.
- SCS will continue to maintain reporting of confirmed cases of COVID for public access.
- SCS will closely monitor and make adjustments to the plan as necessary.



**#BLACKHAWKSFLYTOGETHER**

## **Academic Support**

We understand concerns about learning loss through the pandemic, and our teachers are working diligently to support student learning and making adjustments to instruction and interventions as needed.

Teachers will be assessing, instructing and challenging academic growth, as appropriate for each student, and will provide additional academic support, if needed.

## **Attendance**

We have reviewed our overall attendance policies for staff and students, and have eliminated any attendance recognitions that could encourage attending school when not feeling well.

Students who are absent due to illness or mandatory quarantine will be supported in making up work.

Levels of absenteeism among student and staff populations will be monitored daily.

Parents should continue to follow their school attendance reporting procedures if their child will be absent.

We will give reasonable consideration on attendance expectations and procedures, due to the effects of COVID-19 on students and their families.

## **Back to School Events**

Back to School activities will be planned at the building level. Information about events will be released by each building.

## **Cafeteria**

Elementary breakfast will be served in classrooms to promote social distancing. Students will pick up a pre-bagged breakfast from designated hallway kiosks and head into the classrooms on their way into the building at 7:45.

Elementary lunches will be served in the cafeteria at the tables to promote social distancing. Middle school and high school serving lines are modified to promote social distancing. Plexiglass dividers are available on tables in the MS/HS cafeteria.

Water fountains will remain closed in the elementary with all students being asked to bring water bottles. Dixie cups will be available as needed. HS/MS water fountains will be open, but water bottles are still recommended and can be filled at fountains.

Cafeteria tables and serving lines will be cleaned between each lunch period.

As always, students can also bring their lunch from home.

The USDA has extended the waiver to allow all students to eat a qualifying breakfast and lunch for free through June of 2022.

Sheridan Community Schools offer healthy meals every school day that meet the Federal guidelines of the Healthy Hungry Free Kids act of 2010.

A computerized prepay/debit system is still available to allow parents/guardians to deposit funds into their student's account for ala carte purchases. Online deposits may be made to [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com). Checks and cash are also accepted for student ala carte purchases.

## **Cafeteria Cont.**

Elementary school money is collected in the classroom and sent to the cafeteria to be deposited. At the middle and high school money is deposited at the point of sale. Any funds left at the end of the year transfer to the following school year.

Please note that there is a charge limit at SCS. If you do not want your child to purchase ala carte items please notify the cafeteria. For more information, please review our procedures for student meal accounts found on our school website.

Our school also reviews Direct Certification and accepts Free and Reduced applications. Direct Certification is a federal program where our student roster is matched with federal programs. Free and reduced applications can be found at [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com). If approved for free/reduced or Directly Certified, student book fees will be waived.

If you have any questions regarding cafeteria information, please call the cafeteria office at 317-758- 4431 ext. 3460 or email, [nmosna@sheridan.k12.in.us](mailto:nmosna@sheridan.k12.in.us)

Free/reduced meal applications will be available on our website later this summer. Paper applications will also be available at any school or at the Educational Services Center. Even though meals are free for all students this year, families are encouraged to complete these forms, if applicable, to receive reduced curricular and programming fees.

For more food service information including menus, please visit our website.

## **Calendar/Schedule**

The first student day is Monday, August 9, 2021. The school calendar can be found on the SCS website ([www.scs.k12.in.us](http://www.scs.k12.in.us))

Student Schedule:

SES

- Bus riders: 7:45 - 2:43
- Car riders: 7:45 - 2:33 / 2:43 (staggered dismissal by alphabet)

SMS and SHS

- M, T, Th, F: 8:00-2:55
- Wednesday: 8:25-2:55

## **Classroom Practices**

Students may share school or art supplies and will be asked to sanitize hands before and after shared supply use.

Student seating will be arranged to all face in the same direction, when possible. Small group work will be allowed, but limited to promote social distancing.

Seating charts will be maintained.

Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, and students will have the opportunity to clean hands as they enter/exit classrooms.

Practices will be designed appropriately for students with special needs.

## **Cleaning**

Enhanced cleaning practices will continue, and we will provide extra hand washing materials, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies.

Proper handwashing techniques and other health and safety procedures will be taught and reinforced. Hand sanitizer will be available when hand washing is not possible.

In addition to our regular facility cleaning, we will continue to disinfect high-touch surfaces, like door handles and desks, more frequently.

We have made significant changes to our HVAC systems to enhance air quality.

## **Communications/COVID Data**

SCS will continue to update the Dashboard and post numbers on the website as they change. We will reset to zero at the beginning of the school year and report totals for the 2021-2022 school year. We want to continue to practice full transparency, while at the same time protecting privacy of students and staff.

## **Contact Tracing**

We will contact trace all confirmed cases of COVID. A Close Contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period. Exception to the close contact definition: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the definition excludes students who were 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the classroom setting.



## **Contact Tracing Cont.**

Close Contacts will be notified, reported to the state as required by law, and be required to quarantine for 14, 10 or 7 days from the date of exposure. Vaccinated non-symptomatic Close Contacts do not need to quarantine unless they become symptomatic. (See pages 15-17 for quarantine options.

## **COVID-19/Illness**

Anyone experiencing any symptoms of illness may be excluded from school buildings and events. If your child is ill (or quarantined at home), teachers will provide missed school work per our normal procedures.

Parents are asked to monitor their children to ensure that they are symptom free and safe to attend school each day. School staff should also ensure they are symptom free before coming to school/work.

SCS will continue to observe the 100° temperature as the fever threshold for illness. Please contact the school nurse with concerns or questions about your student's current health symptoms.

Parents should continue to follow their school attendance reporting procedures if their child will be absent.

Suspected COVID symptoms include:

- Fever of 100° or more
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Cough- especially new, uncontrolled
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Headache- particularly new, severe, with fever
- New loss taste, smell

## **COVID-19/Illness Cont.**

If a student or staff member exhibits a potential COVID-19 symptom (other than a fever or loss of taste/smell), they must evaluate whether or not the symptom is typical based on their medical history and use good judgement regarding school attendance.

If the individual exhibits a (1) fever, (2) loss of taste/smell, (3) a potential COVID-19 symptom that is not typical for their medical history, or (4) more than one potential symptom, they may not attend school until one of the following have been met:

1. Documentation of a negative COVID test + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure

(OR)

1. Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from the first day symptoms first appeared + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure

The Hamilton County Health Department and/or Indiana State Department of Health may require additional documentation or impose additional medical restrictions on a case-by-case basis.

### **Confirmed COVID**

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, they will not be able to return to school until all of the following conditions are met (1) out of school for at least 10 days: (2) all symptoms are gone: and (3) fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine) for 24 hours.

### **Household Member**

If a household member is referred for COVID-19 testing, all students living under the same roof should remain home from school until the findings of the COVID-19 test.

If a household member tests positive for COVID-19, all students living under the same roof will remain home from school for the 14-day quarantine period.

## **eLearning**

We know from last year that there were times that absences were so extreme that in order to protect students and also due to the inherent learning loss of extreme absenteeism, it may be necessary to move to eLearning for short periods of time. We understand that this creates a hardship for families, and that for most students, instructional delivery is greatly enhanced through in-person instruction. Therefore, we will not move to eLearning without careful deliberation.

We did learn a lot last year, and although it is not ideal, should we need to move to eLearning for a short time period, we feel better equipped to handle it. All students K-12 have Chromebooks assigned to them. Students in grades K-4 keep Chromebooks at school, but when they need to be sent home, we have now purchased "grab and go bags" with a charger and a bag for use by students. We also have a limited number of hotspots that can be loaned out to families who do not have internet access.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

We will continue athletics and performing arts, with guidance from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the Indiana State School Music Association.

Clubs and extracurricular activities will return to in-person meetings.

## **Field Trips**

Field trips will return as possible, depending on venue/location guidelines.

## **Immunizations**

The COVID vaccine is not required, but is available for students and staff ages 12 and above. If you are interested in scheduling a vaccination, please visit the ISDH Website. Scheduled immunizations are required every year and students must have required immunizations, unless they have an exemption on file. Please note that students entering kindergarten, 6th and 12th grades require new immunizations and all grades now require a two-vaccine immunization series for Hepatitis A.

## **Masks**

The guidance from the Indiana Department of Health highly recommends face coverings be worn for non-vaccinated individuals. Therefore, SCS will recommend (not require) masks be worn for non-vaccinated individuals. We will continue to do all we can to encourage social distancing.

Masks will be required on school buses as is required by federal law, since school buses are public transportation.

We are requesting that students carry a face covering in the event that they are in a situation where social distancing is not possible. We would call this an emergency situation, such as a tornado drill where students are cramped in a small space.

## **Mental Health/Counseling**

Mental health is always a top priority for us, and we recognize that the pandemic increased stress for students.

Our counselors and mental health coordinator are ready to assist students and staff in need of support. Additionally, school-based mental health professionals through Kid Psych, Inc. are offered on-site and can be arranged through our school counselors.

Parents with questions regarding their student's emotional well-being, should contact their school's counselor or principal. We care deeply about our students and want to be support mental well-being.

## **Nurse/School Clinic**

There will be separate areas created in our school nurse clinics—one for regular care and a designated area for anyone who presents any signs or symptoms of illness.

Parents should contact the school nurse with questions about illness symptoms, specific concerns regarding a child's medical care or to inform staff of a chronic medical condition such as, seasonal allergies, strep throat or frequent ear infections.

## **Restrooms**

Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.

Students will be asked to use proper handwashing techniques and will wash their hands after recess and before lunch.

Restrooms will have CDC posters to promote proper washing techniques.

## **Screening**

As described in the COVID/Illness section above, the expectation is that only healthy students and staff will come to school each day. It is imperative that parents screen their children and staff members self-screen daily for symptoms that could be associated with COVID. If students or staff exhibit symptoms they should stay home.

Elementary teachers will continue to take student temperatures daily as a screening for fever and discretely refer students to the health office if they have a fever of 100° or more.

## **Social Distancing**

Social distancing will be practiced when possible.

In classrooms, student seating may be arranged to all face in the same direction, where possible, and will be spaced as far apart as possible.

## **Transportation**

Per federal order, masks are required on buses for students and drivers.

Buses will be cleaned daily and high touch areas (grab bar) will be cleaned between routes. Students will wash their hands upon entering school.

Appropriate signage will be added to buses.

Students will have assigned seats, and seating charts maintained by drivers in order to decrease exposure and assist in contact tracing.

Air flow throughout the bus will be increased by opening roof hatches and selected windows when weather permits.

Loading and unloading procedures will be altered to reduce student time on buses.

## **Travel/Vacations**

Travel to high-risk COVID areas outside the US is discouraged for those who are not vaccinated.

Travelers should follow CDC/Indiana Department of Health COVID recommendations.

## **Virtual Learning**

As was announced previously, SCS will not offer a "virtual learning program" universally this year. Our hope is that students will be able to return to in-person learning. We also understand that there may be unique circumstances that warrant a remote learning option. This is something we have done for years, not just during a pandemic.

If your child has a health reason or other unique situation that suggests he/she may need a different learning option, please contact your building level principal.

Please be aware that state guidelines for virtual learning are stringent for public schools moving forward, so we are more limited in who qualifies.

## **Visitors / Volunteers**

We plan to welcome visitors and volunteers back into our buildings this school year on a limited basis.

Visitors/volunteers must be approved by the building principals, and will be asked to wear masks.

Parents and Lunch Buddies will unfortunately not be able to eat lunch in elementary school cafeterias at the beginning of the school year. SES will evaluate COVID safety and cafeteria space and may change this policy as the school year progresses.

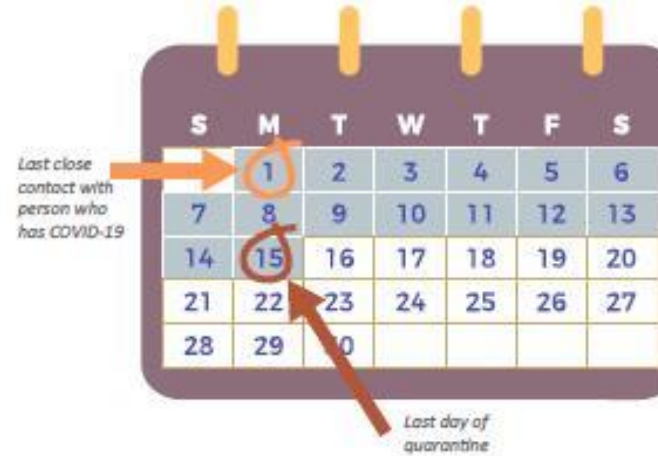
# 14 Day Quarantine

## Key Points

- The only option for symptomatic close contacts. Still encourage testing, though will stay in quarantine even if test comes back negative.
- If asymptomatic close contact that is also a student, staff or teacher, this is still the best and preferred option
  - However, an LHD may allow additional options for earlier returns to classroom activity.

### Quarantine scenarios:

I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19—will not have further close contact



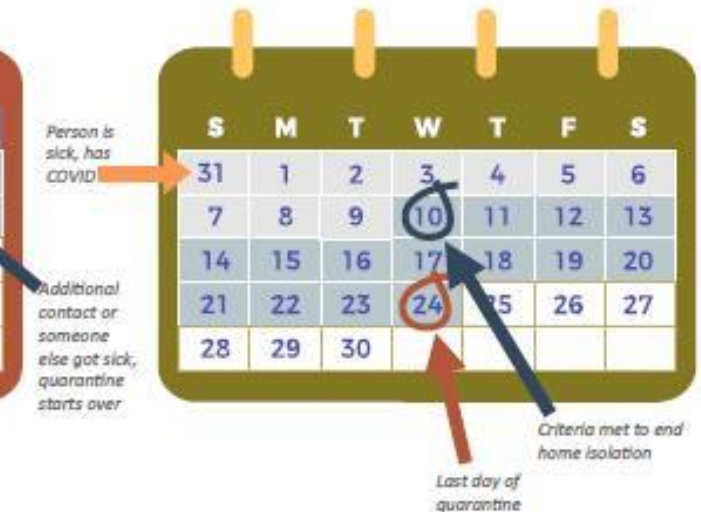
I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19—live with the person but can avoid further close contact



I am under quarantine and had additional close contact with someone who has COVID-19.



I live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact.





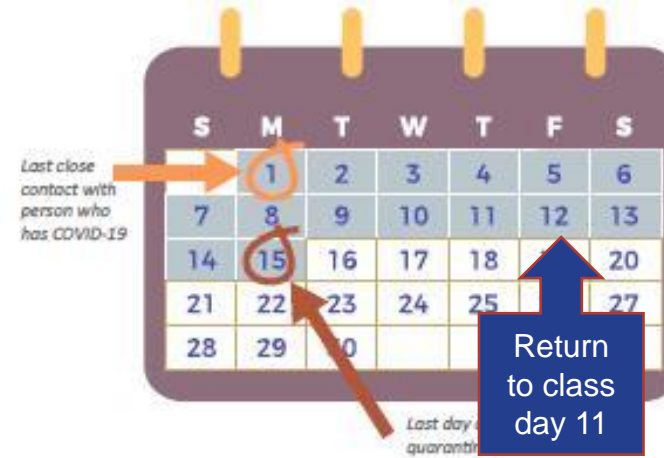
# 10 Day Option

- Must stay asymptomatic
- Return to class Day 11
- Do not return to other activities unless can stay 6 feet away, stay masked the entire time, continue hand and cough hygiene, daily self monitoring for symptoms, etc.
- Return to other activities on Day 15

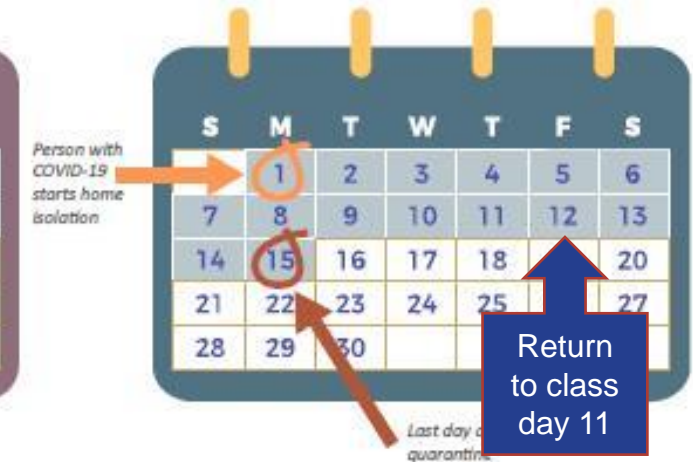


## Quarantine scenarios:

I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19—will not have further close contact



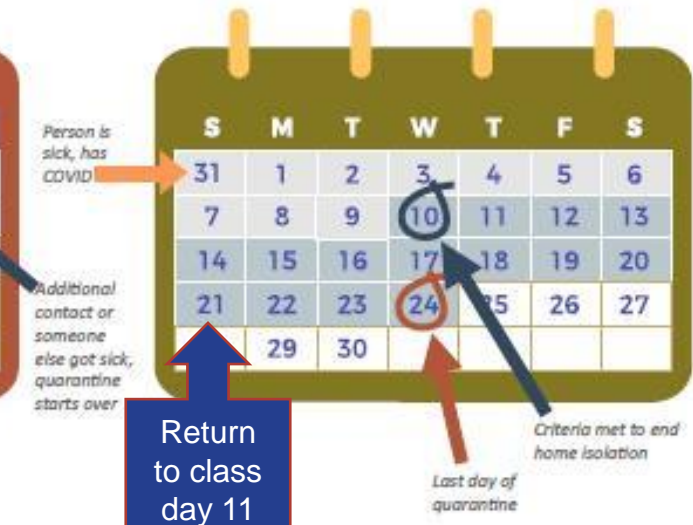
I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19—live with the person but can avoid further close contact



I am under quarantine and had additional close contact with someone who has COVID-19.



I live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact.

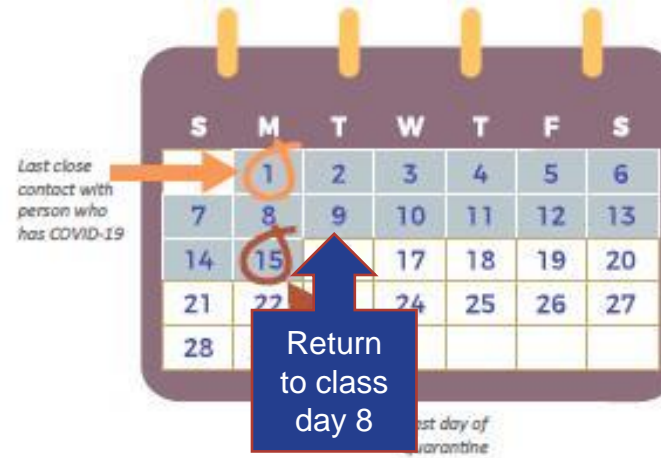


# 7 Day Option

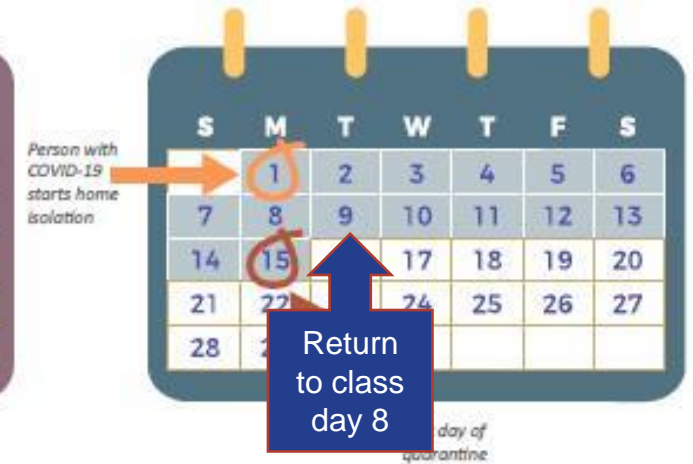
- Must stay asymptomatic
- Return to class Day 8, **ONLY IF**
  - Gets a PCR test performed on Day 5, 6 or 7 AND results come back negative before return to school
  - **OR**
  - Get a BinaxNOW test performed at the school by trained personnel on Day 8 **AND** results are negative
- Do not return to other activities unless can stay 6 feet away, stay masked the entire time, continue hand and cough hygiene, daily self monitoring for symptoms, etc.
- Return to other activities on Day 15

## Quarantine scenarios:

I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19—will not have further close contact



I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19—live with the person but can avoid further close contact



I am under quarantine and had additional close contact with someone who has COVID-19.



I live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact.

