



COVID-19: BCPS Contact Tracing

- You may have heard the term *contact tracing* in the news or on the radio. Contact tracing takes place to find out who may have been exposed to the virus from someone who is sick.
- *Exposure* happens when someone has *close contact* (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with someone that tested positive for COVID-19. Just being in the same room with someone with COVID-19 does not automatically mean you have been exposed.
- If a member of the school community (BCPS staff or student) tests positive for COVID-19 or has COVID symptoms, school nurses and the Office of Health Services will do an investigation to find out who may have been exposed.
- If there was close contact with a person with COVID-19, people will be notified and instructed to *quarantine* at home for 10 days after the last time of contact. If a person is at school and develops COVID-19 symptoms, the school nurse will notify close contacts if the person's test is positive and if the person's test results are delayed. Close contacts of persons with COVID symptoms and delayed test results will need to quarantine for 10 days or until the person receives a negative test result.

Quarantine after exposure means you stay at home and away from others, monitor for symptoms, and seek testing.

- There may be times when no contacts are identified, and no one needs to miss school or work for quarantine. Or, depending on the types of activities, there may be times when part of or an entire office or classroom is sent home to quarantine.
- One part of the BCPS safety plan is to keep staff and students in small groups that mix as little as possible. This is referred to as *cohorting* and makes it easier to identify contacts and reduces the spread of infection.
- When talking to contacts, BCPS will never share the name of the person with COVID-19 or COVID symptoms.
- If a staff or student reports testing positive for COVID-19 and has been in the building when contagious, a *community notice* is sent from the office or school within 24 hours of the report. This notice explains that BCPS responded with a plan approved by Baltimore County Department of Health and that contact tracing investigation took place.

- If you have any questions about contact tracing or BCPS' response to cases of COVID-19, contact your school or building administration. You may also call the Office of Health Services 443-809-6368.