South Carolina Department of Education

- Districts with a **State Board of Education approved full time virtual program** are permitted to offer a full time virtual option for **up to 5% of their student enrollment** in addition to a five day face to face instruction option.

- Districts and schools, except virtual charters, are not permitted to offer only virtual instruction unless the district or school can no longer safely operate and provide face to face instruction due to staffing shortages resulting from COVID-19 or a similar infectious disease. Should staffing shortages exist and the school or district feels it cannot safely offer face to face instruction, **the school or district should contact the local or regional public health office and allow public health officials to assess the situation and provide a recommendation on current operations and additional options for infection control.**

- **Should all local or regional public health recommendations for transmission reduction be exhausted and/or are unable to be implemented and the number of positive cases, quarantines, and relevant public health data warrant it, the school or district is permitted to move temporarily to a virtual mode of instruction.** There is no defined standard or threshold for closing schools or classrooms. Local, regional, and state public health officials will provide the most current data and guidance, or other information requested by a school, so school and district officials can make the most informed decisions possible, in the best interest of the health and wellbeing of their students and staff.

- **The decision making should be handled on a school by school basis rather than district wide unless the staffing shortages exist district wide and district wide closure is recommended by public health officials.** The school or district must move back to face to face instruction as soon as staff becomes available. The school or district should also notify the SCDE prior to announcement of the move to temporary virtual only instruction by completing the form below.

Cleaning, Health and Safety

* Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in classrooms, cafeterias, and main offices, restrooms, and strategically throughout buildings.

* Isolation rooms will continue to be used for students and staff exhibiting symptoms until they can leave the building.

* Custodial staffs will continue to be expected to use hydrostatic machines daily.

" Buses will continue to be sanitized after the morning, and afternoon routes. Masks will be required for students and bus drivers. Buses will operate at 67% capacity as suggested by the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

" School level faculty or department meetings can be held in person or via Microsoft Teams.

" teachers/staff will be cognizant of the number of students sent to the restroom at any one time.

" Students will be allowed to check out books from the media center. Books will need to remain off the shelves for 48 hours upon return."

"

* Social Distancing decals will remain on floors, with the expectation that students remain socially distanced during transitions.

* Contact tracing will be conducted by school nurses during the 2021-2022 school year.

* Out of an abundance of caution, to begin the school year, elementary, primary, and middle schools will have breakfast served in classrooms

"

Athletics

* Maintain a roster of student athletes present at every practice and game

* Conduct temperature checks for athletes and coaches

* Head coaches should maintain a daily list that has coaches and athletes names along with their temperature readings.

* Equipment cannot be shared among players. If a student athlete does not have a required piece of equipment, they will not be allowed to practice.

* Should a student or coach test positive, they will be quarantined, and the school nurse will be notified for contact tracing.

* If someone has been fully vaccinated for greater than two weeks, they will not be quarantined. They must monitor for symptoms and if they exhibit symptoms, they should quarantine and be tested.

* Coaches and school personnel will notify other persons on the team of the positive test result

PowerSchool Coding

Students Who Are On-site

- When a student is physically present in a classroom on school grounds or during an activity approved by the classroom teacher they are to be marked as Present in PowerSchool.

- If a student is not physically present the teacher is to mark the child with an Unexcused Absent (SC-UNEX)

- The Attendance Clerk will validate unexcused absences and make the appropriate changes.

- If a student is tardy, they should report to the Attendance Clerk to receive a pass to class. The Attendance Clerk will record the appropriate Tardy code in PowerSchool

Students Placed in Quarantine

- Students who must quarantine will be enrolled in Special Program TMPVIR

- Both entry and exit dates must be recorded
- The student's name is recorded on the COVID Tracking Form

- A letter of expectations must be sent home by the school

- The SC-VTP present code will be used by teachers for attendance

- Every attendance code must be validated by a returned assignment or the SC-VTP will be changed to SC-UNEX

Student Attendance

Onsight Attendance

- Teachers will take attendance as usual, marking students not in attendance with SC-UNEX absence.

Virtual Attendance

- Students will be marked present using the SC-VTP present code

- Attendance will be validated by academic assignments turned into the teacher correlated to the class/day they were in virtual learning mode.

Students Absence Due to COVID

- SC-COVD (absent code) will be used to define absences due to COVID.

|TO BE PLACED ON SCHOOL LETTER HEAD

<current date>

Dear <name of parent>,

Your child, <name of child> will be out on a COVID related absence beginning <first date of absence> and is expected to return <potential return date>. During that time, your child will receive instruction

_____   By logging onto Schoology and going to their class for notes and instruction

_____   By a learning packet created by your child's teacher

_____   Other: _____

_____

Students are expected to turn in assignments online daily. If you are unable to use the Internet, an alternative way to turn in assignments will be established with your child's teacher. These assignments, when turned in and graded, will validate the present attendance code. Should your child not turn in their assignments, the present attendance code will be changed to an absent code. Absences are subject to monitoring for truancy. The final date your child can submit work to validate their attendance will be <mark date 5 days after the return date>.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

<Typed Principal Name with signature above>

Principal

Critical Infrastructure Workers
& COVID-19 Leave, Quarantine

- Superintendent / Assistant Superintendent
- Directors / Coordinators
- Principals / Assistant Principals / AA's
- Secretaries (only if able to quarantine within workspace or adjust work day hours)
- Reading Coaches
- Lead Teachers
- Nurses
- SRO's
- Custodians (Adjust work day hours to work after staff / students have left)

Scenario		Criteria to return to school
Asymptomatic Diagnosis	Person has tested positive with an antigen test but does not have symptoms of COVID-19 and is not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	If the person has a repeat PCR/molecular test performed within 24 – 48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school; OR If the person does not have a repeat PCR/molecular test or has one within 24 – 48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return to school 10 days after the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms. The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
Asymptomatic Diagnosis	Person has tested positive with a PCR/molecular test, but the person does not have symptoms.	Person can return to school 10 days after their positive test.

Cont. DHEC Guidance

Symptomatic (no close contact)	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR/molecular test.	Person can return to school when • It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. The person is *not required* to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
Symptomatic (no close contact)	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.	Person can return to school when • It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Cont. DHEC Guidance

Symptomatic (no close contact)	**Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received an <u>alternate diagnosis</u> that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19.** *In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated or has had a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the last 90 days.)	**Person can return to school when** they meet criteria per DHEC exclusion list and: • It has been at least **24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND** • They have **felt well for at least 24 hours.** Note: The health care provider *is not required* to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.
Close Contact (asymptomatic)	**Person who is not fully vaccinated and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 (or who chooses not to show proof of vaccination)**	Person **can return** to school after: • **completing up to 14 days of quarantine.** The 14 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Alternatively, if the school offers a shortened quarantine, the person may complete a 10-day quarantine if the person is not presenting symptoms of COVID-19 after daily at-home monitoring, or they may complete 7 days of quarantine if they report no symptoms during daily at-home monitoring, and the individual has received results of a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test on a test taken no earlier than day 5 of quarantine. If quarantine is discontinued before day 14, the individual should continue to monitor symptoms and strictly adhere to all non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g. wear a mask, practice physical distancing) through 14 days after the date of last exposure.

Close Contact (asymptomatic)	**Person who is fully vaccinated and <u>does not</u> have any symptoms after a close contact with someone with COVID-19.**	**Person does not need to quarantine if they voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine.** **• Recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure.** **• It is important for them to wear a mask at school until 14 days after exposure or until they receive a negative test result.**
Close Contact (asymptomatic)	**Person who has tested positive (positive PCR or antigen test) for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and <u>does not</u> have symptoms after a close contact with someone with COVID-19.**	**Person must wear a mask at all times while in the school, monitor for symptoms daily and throughout the day, practice physical distancing to the extent possible, practice good hand hygiene, and clean frequently touched surfaces often until 14 days after exposure.**

Cont. DHEC Guidance

	Person who has been in **close contact** with someone with COVID-19, who **develops symptoms** while in quarantine and **has no other** <u>alternate</u> <u>diagnosis</u> **to explain the symptoms. This applies to vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals.** ***If an alternate diagnosis has been determined, refer to the above close contact guidance based on vaccine/previously infected status.**	**Person can return to school when** • It has been **10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND** • It has been at least **24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND** • **Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.**
Close Contact (symptomatic)		

Staff working while in quarantine

- To limit the chances of COVID-19 spread in the facility, staff should plan to quarantine at home and not return to work after close contact to someone contagious with COVID-19.

However:

- Fully vaccinated staff who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.
  - o Individuals may voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine.
  - o Fully vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms. If fully vaccinated people test negative, they may not need to wear a mask.
  - o These individuals should also continue to monitor for symptoms daily and throughout the day, practice physical distancing to the extent possible, practice good hand hygiene, and clean frequently touched surfaces often until 14 days after exposure.

Indoor School Close Contact Scenarios

Not a close contact

Student

3 feet

Close Contact Quarantine

Student

2 feet

Positive Case

Not a close contact

Student

7 feet

Close Contact Quarantine
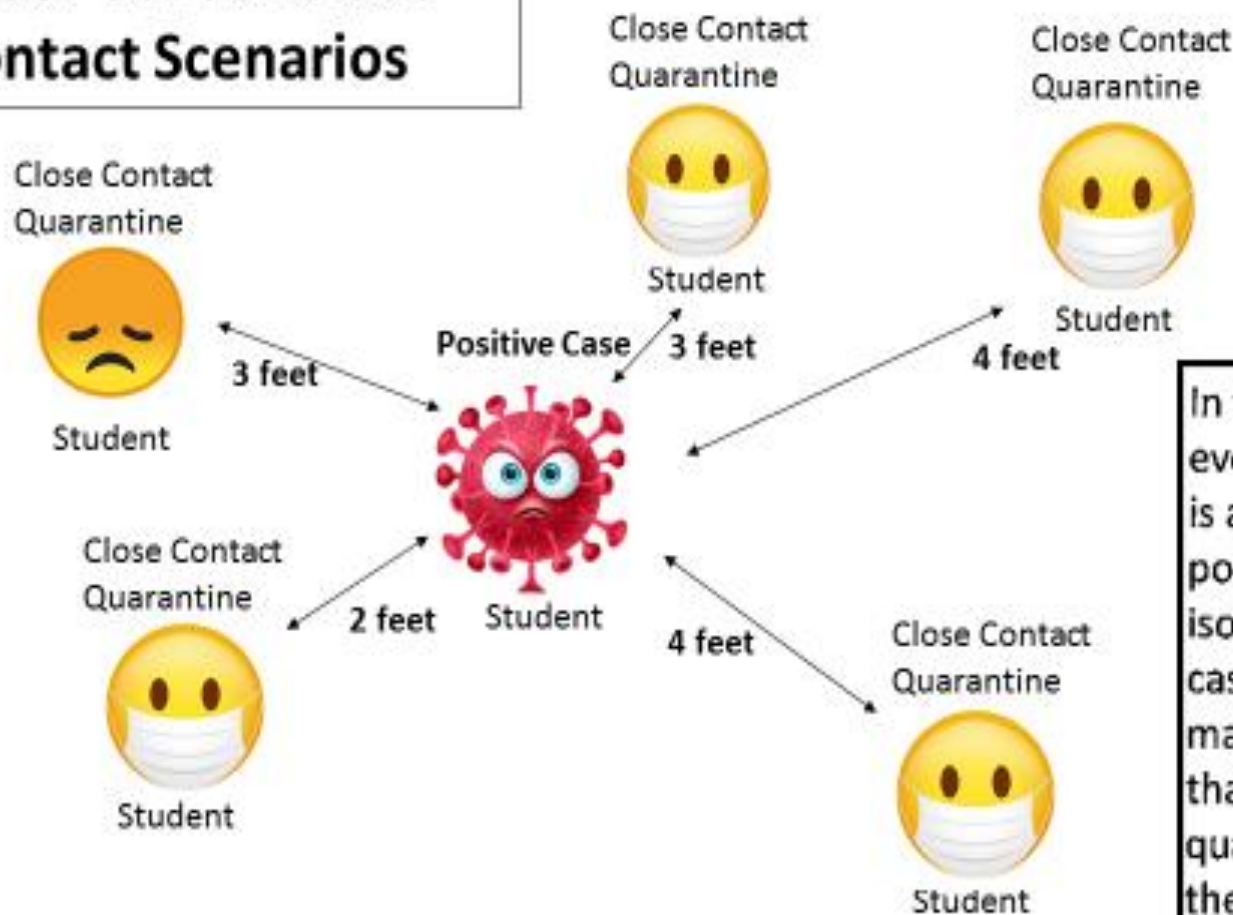
Student

2 feet
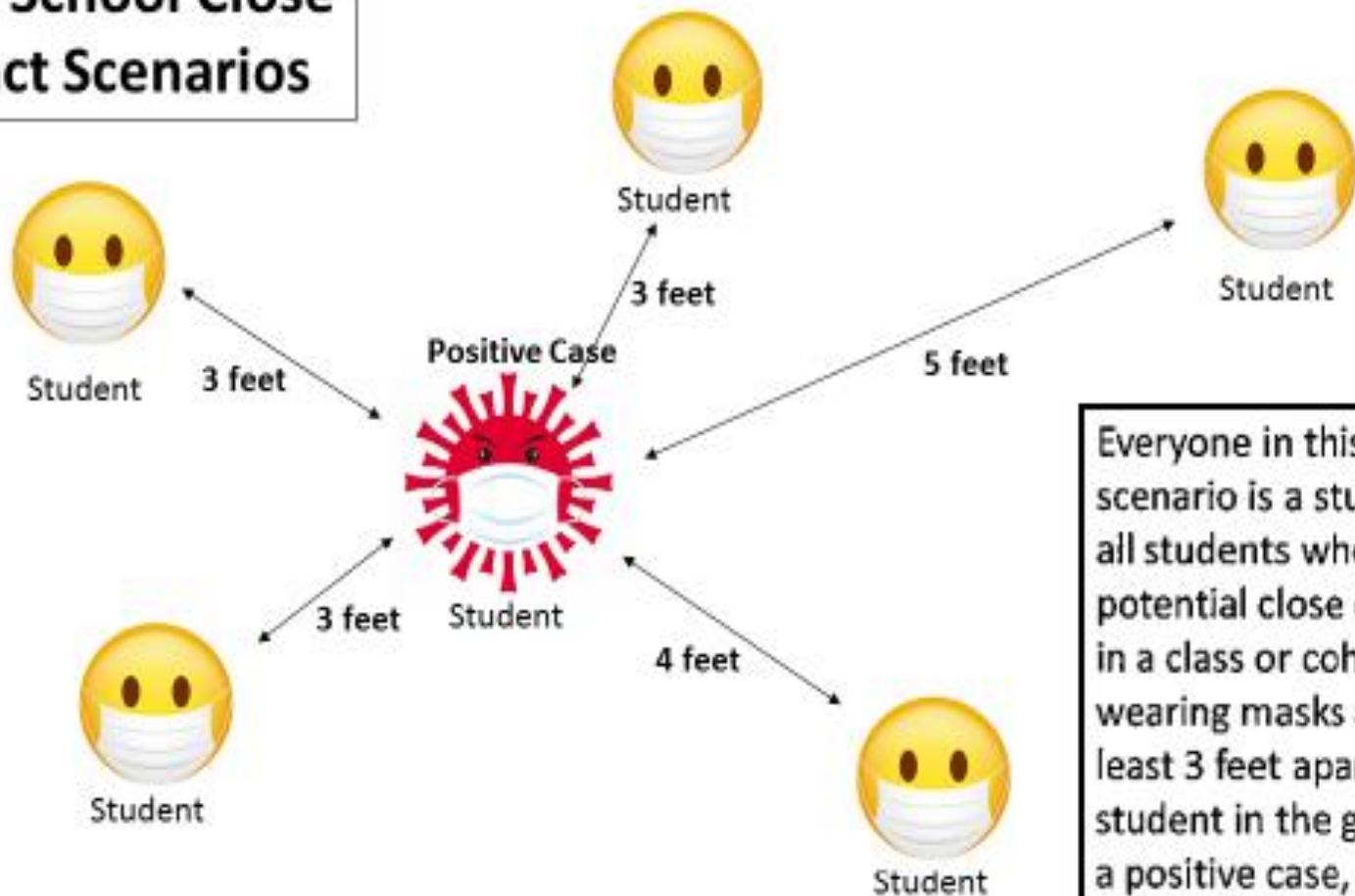
Student

Close Contact Quarantine

4 feet

Student

In this scenario, everyone in the cohort is a student. The positive case will isolate. Everyone less than 3 feet from the case is a close contact and must quarantine. Everyone 3 feet or further who is wearing a mask is not a close contact and does not quarantine. Everyone 3-6 feet without a mask is a close contact and does need to quarantine. One student is more than 6 feet away and doesn't have to quarantine.

Indoor School Close Contact Scenarios

In this scenario, everyone in the cohort is a student. The positive case will isolate. Because the case isn't wearing a mask, everyone closer than 6 feet will have to quarantine even if they're wearing a mask.
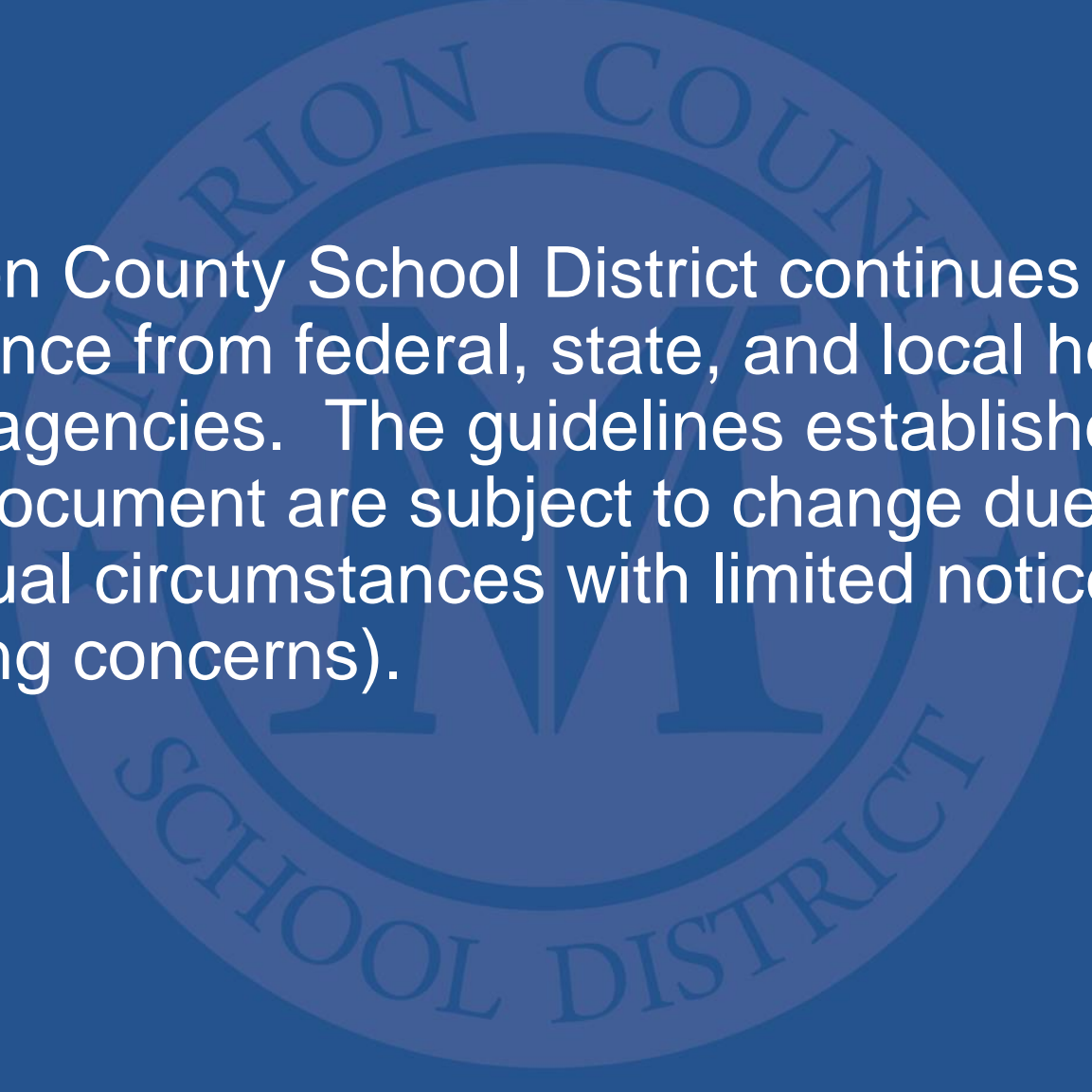
Indoor School Close Contact Scenarios

Classroom/School Closures

- If a classroom has 20% of their students who have received a positive test result, that classroom would meet virtually.

- If a school has 10% of the total number of enrolled students who have tested positive, that school will meet virtually.

- If a school has 25% of the total number of enrolled students who have tested positive or quarantined, that school with meet virtually.

- If 3 or more COVID-19 cases are identified within a classroom or other cohort of students (e.g. sports team or extracurricular group) within fourteen (14) days of each other, consideration should be given to excluding all students and staff, who have not voluntarily provided evidence of vaccination, in the classroom (or cohort of students) for fourteen (14) days after contact with the last identified COVID-19 case.

- Marion County School District continues to use guidance from federal, state, and local health care agencies. The guidelines established in this document are subject to change due to unusual circumstances with limited notice (i.e. staffing concerns).