



What To Expect

UPDATED 10/22/21

When There is a COVID-19 Case in a School

Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS) is working closely with the Henderson County Department of Public Health (HCDPH) to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Together, HCPS and the HCDPH are committed to providing transparent, factual information about COVID-19 safety to parents and guardians.

HCPS will report school-affected positives each business day on the COVID-19 District Dashboard. Daily alert call notifications for school-affected positives ceased Oct. 22, 2021 in an effort to streamline critical communications. **If your child is identified as having had close contact with a positive COVID case, the health department will contact you directly.**

Addressing Rumors & Privacy: Any information shared with staff or school families must balance the privacy rights and interests of students and staff under state and federal laws. As our families know, HCPS cannot discuss the health status of any specific student or staff member with others.

You may hear from your child about a student or staff member who is ill or absent, but that does not mean they have COVID-19. Please talk to your child about respecting people's privacy about health-related information and do not assume all illnesses or all absences are related to Coronavirus.

Here is what you can expect when there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school:

HCPS **WILL**

- ✓ Report school-affected positives on the COVID-19 District Dashboard each business day
- ✓ Partner with the Henderson County Department of Public Health for contact tracing
- ✓ Provide as transparent reporting as possible while still protecting confidentiality
- ✓ Temporarily close areas where the infected person spent time for extra cleaning
- ✓ Monitor symptoms of students and staff, as well as case counts
- ✓ Send students and staff home when they are ill
- ✓ Continue to teach and learn from home when under quarantine
- ✓ Continue to provide important health and safety information to families

Health Department **WILL**

- ✓ Conduct contact tracing to identify potential exposure on campus based on proximity, time together, and lack of face covering
- ✓ Notify any person identified as a close contact, instruct them to self-quarantine, and provide further guidance on quarantine and testing

We **WILL NOT**

- ✗ Provide personally identifiable information of an infected person
- ✗ Immediately close schools for a positive case

Addressing Clusters:

Should there be any concerning trends or a cluster (5 or more cases) at a school, HCPS will send out a notification to staff, school families, and to the community through all available communication channels. The health department will provide additional guidance and respond to public health inquiries.

Additionally, any clusters and outbreaks will be reported to the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services by the local health department, and included on the NCDHHS dashboard found online at: <http://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/outbreaks-and-clusters>.