



NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST ON CAMPUS

We appreciate your patience as we learn through this COVID-19 pandemic, as it pertains to and affects our schools. Please know that we love and care about your children and that we will leave no rock unturned, as we determine Close Contact, if and when any Close Contact took place.

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19. In general, Close Contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on) of a positive individual; or
- b) being within 6 feet for a continuous duration of 15 minutes with a positive individual (breathing the same air);
 - however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

As soon as the school district is notified of a positive COVID-19 case for an individual that was on campus, the district will immediately begin to contact all parents of students that “may” have had Close Contact with the positive individual. This way, parents can make the best determination for their child(ren) for the following day of school. This phone call notification of “possible” Close Contact will be made on the same day as the school district being notified of a positive case, no matter the time of day that the school district notification is received. The district-wide notification is required, but will be followed up with a phone call if your child may have been affected.

Depending on the time of positive COVID-19 case notification to the school, it may be the following day before “actual” Close Contact can be determined. Once “actual” Close Contact is determined, the parents will again be notified, to ensure that ‘Stay Home’ procedures are followed, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Federal law restricts us from sharing personal information about the positive case individual. However, we are establishing this new notification process, because we feel that parents have a right to know if their child “may” have had Close Contact with any individual that was positive for COVID-19. All personally identifiable information about the positive case individual will be protected and kept strictly confidential.

We need to all remain diligent in our pursuit of health and safety of our school district students and staff, and one another. Thank you again for partnering with us as we progress through this new situation with COVID-19, now that school is back in session.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Shannon Hearn, our School Nurse and COVID-19 Response Coordinator, at hearronshannon@harletonisd.net or 903-235-3596.

Or you may contact myself, Jay Ratcliff, HISD Superintendent, at ratcliffjay@harletonisd.net or 936-615-3556.

