



Reopening Update

Richmond County Board of Education

August 18, 2020

- **March 16, 2020** – Suspended School until further notice due to COVID-19
- **June 30, 2020** – Presented the Initial Reopening Plan for RCSS with an August 3, 2020 start date
- **July 14, 2020** – Based on the updated COVID-19 data, pivoted to a September 8, 2020 start date for F2F and Online Learning
- **August 4, 2020** – Provided F2F/Online Update
- **August 18, 2020** – Provide reopening update

Online Learning Timeline

- Virtual Registration – July 1, 2020 – July 27, 2020 (15,192)
- Late Registration – July 28, 2020 – July 29, 2020 (16,243) plus 1,051
- Late Registration Extended – August 3, 2020 – August 7, 2020 (18,641) plus 2,398
- Anticipated and Planned for approximately one-third (Online)
- Total student enrollment 30,000 plus
- Almost 2/3 or 18,641 parents/students selected Online Learning (with more requests pending)

- Elementary School
 - Face-to-Face – Monday – Friday (Regular Bell Schedule)
 - Virtual/Online – Monday – Friday (AM & PM) schedule
- Middle School
 - Face-to-Face – Monday – Friday (Regular Bell Schedule)
 - Virtual/Online – Monday – Friday (AM & PM) schedule
- High School
 - Face-to-Face – Monday – Friday (Regular Bell Schedule)

Overview of Presentation

- Officer Tilley, Emergency Preparedness Officer – COVID-19 Data Update
- Dr. Cobb, Associate Superintendent – Online/Virtual Update
- Mr. Benedict, Assistant Superintendent – Attendance Update
- Mr. Priester, Deputy Superintendent – F2F/Logistical Update
- Dr. Hillman, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services Update
- Dr. Clark – RCSS COVID-19 Data/ HR Protocol and Readiness Update
- Mr. McClintock, Assistant Superintendent – GHSA/Athletic Update
- Dr. Bradshaw, Superintendent of Schools – Recommendation to the BOE



Emergency Preparedness Overview

Officer Jeff Tilley

Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

Richmond County COVID-19 Data*

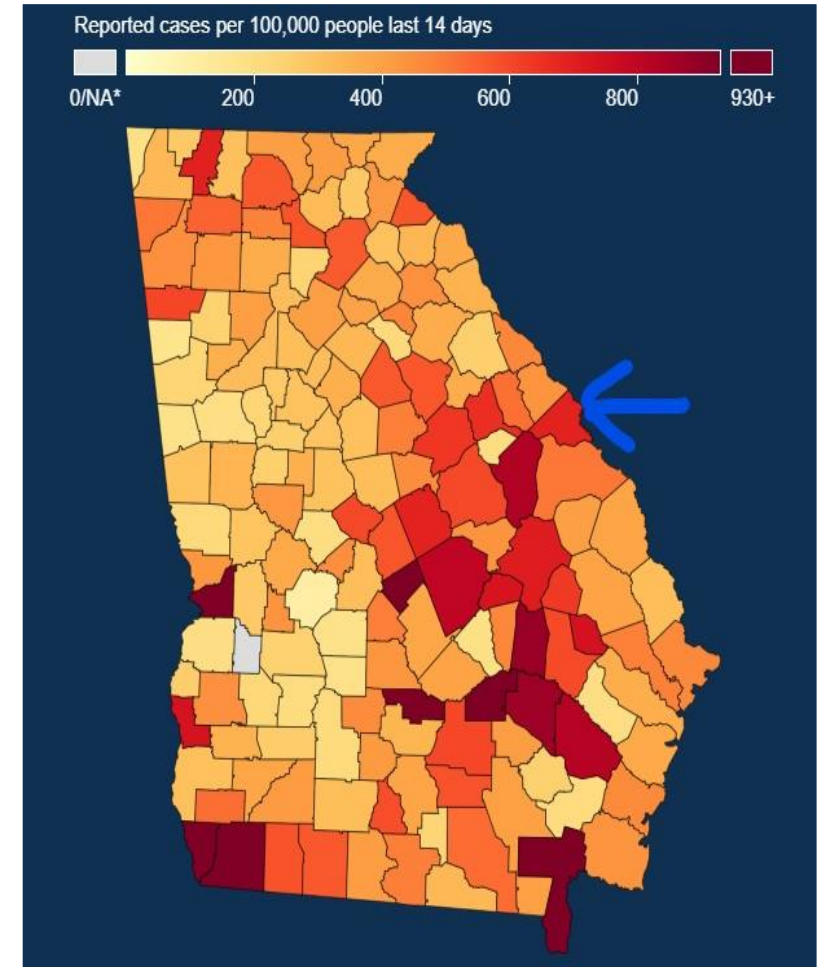


- Confirmed Cases: 5192
 - Confirmed Cases Last Two Weeks: 1402 (**27% of total confirmed case count**)
 - Percent of Positive Cases Tested August 07 –13:
 - Richmond County **17.5%**
(2 out of every 10 people test positive)
- Goal of 5% or less is recommended by the Infectious Disease Society of America and National Superintendents Association*
- Number of Richmond County Residents: 202,240

*Data through August 17, 2020 at 3:00pm

Richmond County COVID-19 Data*

- Cases per 100k Richmond County Residents: 2567
- Reported Cases per 100k Last Two Weeks: **693**
- Deaths per 100k Richmond County Residents: 48.5
- Total Deaths: 98



Richmond County is marked by the blue arrow on the map. Deep red indicates a high number of reported COVID-19 cases over the most recent 2 week period.

*Data through August 17, 2020 at 3:00pm

Richmond County COVID-19 Data*

Georgia Situation Report COVID-19



Published August 17, 2020 3:52 pm

Changes are in **RED**

Situation Report #151

Most Impacted Counties

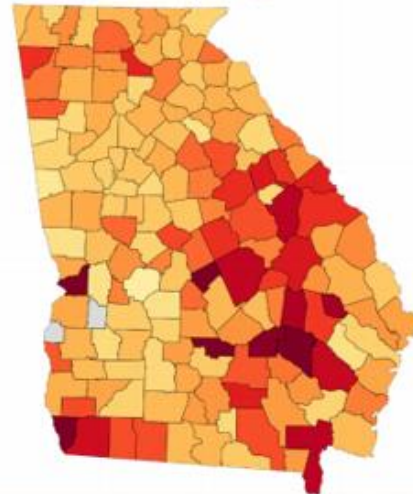
Counties	Cases	*Change	Fatalities
Fulton	22,107	+114	476
Gwinnett	21,655	+121	290
DeKalb	15,101	+71	264
Cobb	14,962	+69	340
Hall	6,581	+29	105
Chatham	6,317	+70	96
Clayton	5,570	+48	116
Richmond	5,192	+128	98
Muscogee	5,092	+26	110
Bibb	4,134	+73	84
Cherokee	4,005	+24	67
Henry	3,786	+51	59
Whitfield	3,730	+10	40
Lowndes	3,259	+3	50
Douglas	2,892	+18	58
Dougherty	2,837	+11	173
Glynn	2,754	+4	56
Columbia	2,695	+60	34
Forsyth	2,586	+17	27
Troup	2,419	+6	77
Clarke	2,264	+14	21
Houston	2,251	+33	62
Bartow	2,063	+6	64
Carroll	2,052	+9	54
Unknown	2,761		5

Cumulative Cases

	Positives	Fatalities
Georgia	238,861	4,727
U.S.	5,416,639	170,194
World	21,755,069	776,469

COVID-19 Reported Cases per 100,000 People Last 14 Days by County

Rates may not be accurate when case counts are <5 and are not presented.



*Current Confirmed COVID-19 Hospitalizations: 2,626

**Does not include persons under investigation for COVID-19

*** Pulled from DPH's 2:50 p.m. Status Report

Mega-Testing Site

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) in partnership with Governor Brian Kemp, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, GEMA/HS and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport announces the opening of a COVID-19 mega-testing site. The mega-testing site which has the capacity to test 5,000 people a day is located at: 1800 Sullivan Road, College Park, Georgia, 30337. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. from August 10 - August 26 Testing is available to all Georgians regardless of symptoms, however appointments and online registrations are recommended.

To register online and to make an appointment, go to doineedacovid19test.com. There is no charge for testing.

Fatality Statistics

Average Age	73.1 years old
Age Range	7 to 90+ years old
Male	2,457
Female	2,263
Unknown	7

References

www.DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com
www.dph.georgia.gov
www.gema.ga.gov
www.cdc.gov
www.coronavirus.gov

COVID-19 Hotline

(844) 442-2681

Based on patient county of residence when known

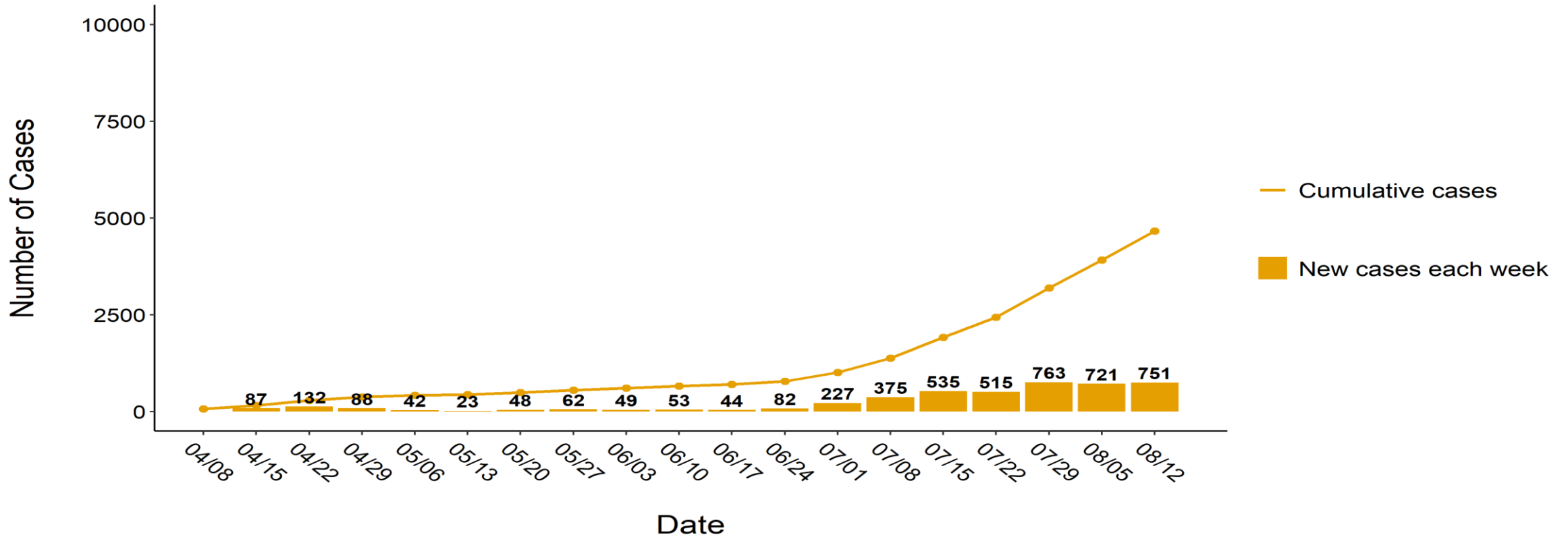
*Change in cases from last report

Number in red indicates increase in cases

Richmond County COVID-19 Data



COVID-19 in Richmond County
Weekly counts taken each Wednesday



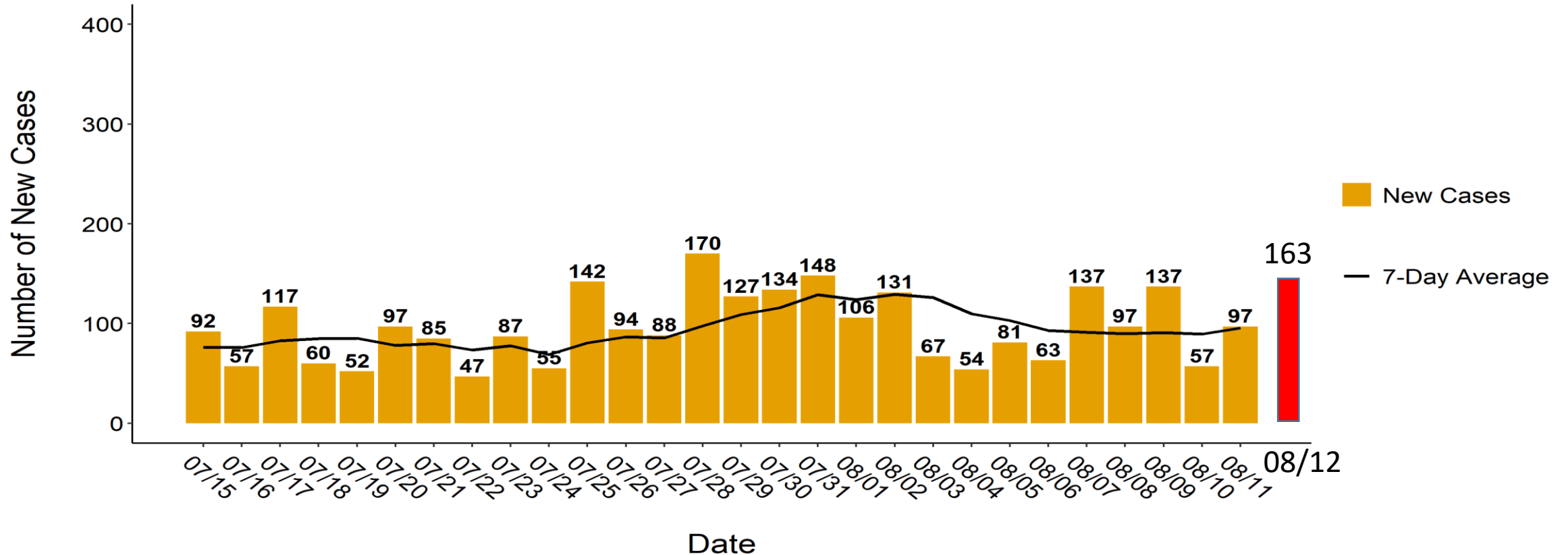
Cases per week data show 1472 confirmed positive reported COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks.

Infectious Disease Society of America and National Superintendents Association recommend a 7-14 day downward trend in cases and a 5% or less in positive tests to reopen schools.

Richmond County COVID-19 Data



Daily New COVID-19 Cases in Richmond County



Cases per day data show daily average of 105 cases confirmed positive reported COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks.

Infectious Disease Society of America and National Superintendents Association recommend a 7-14 day downward trend in cases and a 5% or less in positive tests to reopen schools.

- RCSS Community Guidance (Students, Staff, Parents and Community)
 - Follow advice of public health officials
 - Wash Your Hands
 - Wear Your Mask
 - Practice Social Distancing



Academic Services

Dr. Malinda Cobb

Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

Virtual Learning Model

- Move from “Online Academy” to school-based virtual instruction
- Train all teachers during August and throughout the year
- Place an Instructional Specialist in each school
- Follow RCSS Online Learning Plans for SPED services
- Support PreK Face-to-Face/Traditional Model
- Provide K-12 instruction through Canvas and Microsoft Teams

Next Steps:

- Teachers will send a welcome email prior to the first day of school
- Parent and Student Canvas Orientation Resources are available on rcboe.org/canvas for parents and students to complete

Tips for Success

Large Group:

- Consider dividing the class into two groups or “cohorts” for large group activities. The Lead and Assistant teachers can both lead “smaller” large group activities.
- Create distance between children on the rug (e.g., seat one child every two spots, skip rows) when possible.

Small Group:

- Additional planned small groups times should be considered for each day.
- Set up cohorts of students that participate in activities together as a consistent small group to reduce interaction among all students. Cohorts don’t mix, but physical distancing isn’t always observed within the cohort group.

Center Time:

- Limit the number of children in learning centers during center time. Consider engaging half of the class in Center Time with one teacher while the other half of the children are outside with the second teacher. Then swap children. This may mean that center time will be shortened in order to fit all activities into the day.
- Programs may choose to rotate materials or only open a few centers each day. When a center is not open on a given day, hang a stop sign on the center.
- Place used manipulatives and toys in a large bin to clean at the end of the day. Consider using materials that can be easily sanitized.

Nap Time:

- Ensure that children’s naptime mats are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 3 – 6 feet apart. Consider placing children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Cots and mats should be labeled for each child and cleaned regularly.
- Keep each child’s bedding separate; consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags.

Class Size Recommendations

Grade Level	Recommended F2F	Recommended Online
Kindergarten	16	20
One-Three	16	21
Four-Five	20	28
Six-Eight	20	28
Nine-Twelve	25	32



- Smaller class sizes allow more opportunities to support Early Intervention and Remediation programs for students with possible learning loss and additional content mastery needs.
- Students will have access to FEV Tutoring 24 hours/7 days a week.

- **Synchronous** teaching allows the teacher(s) and students to gather in real time using a virtual online meeting (Microsoft Teams) in order to engage, review, and discuss material and assignments.
- **Asynchronous** learning allows students to learn the same material at different times and locations. The term includes online learning in which students learn from instruction—such as pre-recorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own—that is not being delivered in person or in real time.

Elementary Online Learning Schedule



AM Online Instruction

Time	Monday-Thursday	Fridays
9:00-11:00	Synchronous Instruction (ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, Music and Art)	Asynchronous Assignments (Parent conferences scheduled as needed)
11:00-11:50	Tutoring with Teacher as needed	
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-3:00	Asynchronous ELA/Reading and Math (FEV Tutoring, if needed)	

Elementary Online Learning Schedule



PM Online Instruction

Time	Monday-Thursday	Fridays
9:00-11:00	Asynchronous ELA/Reading and Math (FEV Tutoring, if needed)	Asynchronous Assignments (Parent conferences scheduled as needed)
11:00-11:50	Tutoring with Teacher as needed	
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-3:00	Synchronous Instruction (ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, Music and Art)	

AM Online Instruction

Time	Mondays and Wednesdays	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Fridays
9:00-9:50	First Period Course	Third Period Course	Asynchronous Assignments (all content) Conferences as needed
10:00-10:50	Second Period Course	Fourth Period Course	
11:00-11:50	Tutoring with Teachers as needed	Tutoring with Teachers as needed	
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00-3:00	Asynchronous ELA/Reading and Math Assignments AND Optional Edgenuity Electives, if selected		

PM Online Instruction

Time	Mondays and Wednesdays	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Fridays
9:00-11:00	Asynchronous ELA/Reading and Math Assignments AND Optional Edgenuity Electives, if selected		Asynchronous Assignments (all content) Conferences as needed
11:00-11:50	Tutoring with Teachers as needed	Tutoring with Teachers as needed	
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00-1:50	First Period Course	Third Period Course	
2:00-2:50	Second Period Course	Fourth Period Course	

High School Course Offerings



COVID-19 Virtual Considerations:

- Online offerings will be limited to courses required for graduation; elective courses will be offered as the school's schedule allows.
- Online students may participate in Dual Enrollment.
- Specialty programs provided in F2F may not be available in the COVID-19 online instructional offerings. This includes but is not limited to International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), career and fine art pathways.
- Marion Barnes Career Center, Reaching Potential through Manufacturing, and the Cyber Academy will be available for F2F.

High School Student Schedule



Sample Bell Schedule	F2F (M-F)	Online Synchronous Schedule	Online Asynchronous Schedule
7:30-8:20	First Period	Monday	Tu, W, Th, F
8:25-9:15	Second Period	Monday	Tu, W, Th, F
9:20-10:10	Third Period	Tuesday	M, W, Th, F
10:15-11:05	Fourth Period	Tuesday	M, W, Th, F
11:10-12:00	Fifth Period	Wednesday	M, Tu, Th, F
12:05-12:35	Lunch	N/A	N/A
12:40-1:30	Sixth Period	Wednesday	M, Tu, Th, F
1:35-2:25	Seventh Period	Thursday	M, Tu, W, F

If we have to switch to an all virtual environment:

- F2F teachers will continue to teach their students virtually
- Provide instruction through Canvas and Microsoft Teams
- Instruction will be given in two-week asynchronous units
- F2F teachers will be available for synchronous support one hour each day; schools will establish and communicate those times

Next Steps:

- Teachers will contact students prior to the first day of school
- Complete Parent and Student Canvas Orientation (rcboe.org/canvas)

F2F Virtual Student Schedule



Sample Schedule	PK-5 F2F Schedule	6-12 F2F Schedule	Synchronous Support
7:30-8:20	ELA/Reading	First Period	Monday
8:25-9:15	Math	Second Period	Monday
9:20-10:10	Science	Third Period	Tuesday
10:15-11:05	Social Studies	Fourth Period	Tuesday
11:10-12:00	Music	Fifth Period	Wednesday
12:05-12:35	Lunch	Lunch	N/A
12:40-1:30	Art	Sixth Period	Wednesday
1:35-2:25	PE	Seventh Period	Thursday

Sample Schedules

F2F Virtual Support

- Drive-Up WiFi at each school
- WiFi Bus Neighborhood Schedule
- 2-Week Assignment Schedule
- Offline Content Download Option
- Mobile-friendly Canvas & Microsoft Team Apps
- Microsoft Office Suite (5 free downloads)
- Affordable Internet Access



Local Support Sites

- Churches
- Daycares
- Boys and Girls Club
- Family Y
- Recreation Centers
- Public Libraries



Parent Checklist for Online Instruction

- Pick up device from school, if needed
- Review schedule in Infinite Campus Parent Portal
- Practice logging into Canvas through Launchpad
- Complete parent and student Canvas Orientation
- Download Canvas Student and Parent app
- Prepare a quiet space for synchronous instruction; consider purchasing a headphone/microphone headset
- Ensure your device has camera and microphone capabilities
- Schedule time to complete asynchronous assignments daily
- Attend Open House August 31-Sept 4 (F2F and Virtual)
- Monitor your child's grades in Canvas weekly





Attendance Update

Mr. Nathan Benedict

Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

- State Guidance
 - Students are considered to be in attendance when participating in active instruction and/or educational services from a school or district. This active instruction may occur in-person or through virtual/distance/remote learning. (GADOE Attendance FAQ 6/26/2020)
- F2F student attendance will be recorded daily
 - F2F Virtual student attendance will be recorded based on assignment completion and student/teacher interactions
- Virtual student attendance will be recorded 2 ways:
 1. Synchronous Instruction- Teachers will document attendance by student being present for synchronous class
 2. Asynchronous Instruction- Teachers will document attendance by student logging into Canvas

COVID-19 Attendance Considerations

- To reduce the burden on parents and the medical community, the requirement to provide a physician's note justifying any absence beyond five will be relaxed. (2020-2021 RCSS Code of Conduct, pg.11)
- Exam exemption waiver for students based on course average without consideration for student attendance. (IHA-R(1))
- If a teacher or student is absent for an extended period of time, the teacher can provide asynchronous assignments that the student can complete using Canvas.

Students enrolled in F2F or virtual learning, and not attending:

1. On the 4th day of school, investigate the No Show students by calling parents and/or emergency contacts for each student who has not reported to school or logged into the Canvas platform.
2. On the 7th day of school, an Enrollment No Show Report is generated and a Social Worker referral completed for students that were not able to be contacted.
3. On the 11th day of school, the administration and social worker will collaborate to determine if a DFACS referral is needed.



F2F Reopening Plan

Mr. Matthew Priester

Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

- Plans based on Minimal/Moderate Community Spread
- Areas of Consideration
 - Transporting Students
 - Practicing Prevention
 - Entering School Buildings
 - Serving Meals
 - Student Transitions
 - Conducting Large Group Gatherings

Transporting Students

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers
- Provide training for bus drivers in a COVID environment
- Provide and require masks/facial coverings for bus drivers
- Require students to wear masks/facial coverings while on the bus
- Utilize assigned seating and family group seating on buses
- Eliminate field trips
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on buses, in between daily routes and at the end of the day
- Establish protocols for social distancing at bus stops
- Bus modifications not permitted in accordance with FMVSS

Practicing Prevention

- Each school is asked to teach and reinforce good hygiene measures
- Provided hand soap in all bathrooms, hand sanitizing stations throughout all facilities (8/10 – 8/14)
- Require masks/face coverings for students, staff and visitors in common areas where social distancing is not possible
- Use seating charts in classrooms to facilitate contact tracing
- Post COVID-19 prevention & symptoms, good hygiene signage throughout facilities
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily
- Turn off water fountains and provide access to water or allow students and staff to bring water from home

Entering School Buildings

- Posted signage on COVID-19 prevention and symptoms, good hygiene, and school/system specific protocols
- Request parents to screen their children for symptoms before sending them to school
 - Remind parents to keep sick children at home
- School system employees will be required to check their temperature before coming to work
- Designate entrance and exit flow paths for each facility
- Visitors/volunteers access will be limited. Visitors are asked to make appointments or utilize virtual meetings

- Allow and encourage student hand washing before and after meal service
- Provide hand sanitizers for students and staff in the cafeteria
- Use disposable plates, utensils, and other similar items
- Add signage to designate entrance and exit flow paths for cafeterias, serving lines and for social distancing
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the day
- Continue Seamless Summer Service until August 28th

Breakfast will use a “breakfast in the classroom model.”

- All schools will utilize meal carts that will be set up where students enter the school (bus riders and car riders/walkers).
- Students will pick up a breakfast and report immediately to their classroom or designated area.
- Provisions:
 - Simplified menus
 - Classroom friendly choices - i.e. no syrup, jelly, etc.
 - Touchless meal counting
 - Provide extra trash cans and trash bags for hallways

Students will come through the serving line to pick up trays for lunch service.

Four models can be used for seating based on administrator preference:

- All students eat in cafeteria, meal service schedule is extended to maintain social distancing and limit congregation.
 - All students eat in classroom or other designated areas e.g. outside seating, gyms, etc.
 - All students return to classroom with meals.
 - Some students are scheduled to eat in the cafeteria on designated days while others return to the classroom with meals.
- Provisions:
 - Simplified menus (fewer entrée and side options)
 - All items will be prewrapped or served in a bowl with a lid
 - Touchless meal counting – tally sheets
 - For Davidson, Walker, and Freedom Park – will provide cards to scan for meals

- Students and parents pick up meals on Fridays from 11am-2pm at their child's enrolled school.
- The first pickup is Friday, September 4th.
- Meal kits include breakfast and lunch for 5 days for the following week.
- Instructions for storage and reheating will be included.
- **Parents need to opt in or out of this service to limit food waste.**

Daily Disinfecting Plan

- Clean and disinfect schools “High Touch Point” areas continuously throughout the day or after use. (door handles, switches, office tables/chairs, dispensers etc.)
- Daily restock of all product dispensers (hand sanitizer, soap, paper towel & tissue paper)
- Trash should be removed from the school daily.
- Bathrooms should be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day
- All Floors should be vacuumed, swept, and mopped daily; and buffed at least once per week.
- Provide all classrooms with a bottle of approved disinfectant
- Schools with high F2F enrollment have requested additional staff
- Training for custodial staff on COVID-19 cleaning requirements.

- Limit congregating between groups/grade levels
- Provide additional time for transitions
- Masks required during hallway transitions where social distancing and contact tracing is difficult to accomplish
- Designate hallway flow paths to minimize/eliminate congregating
- Stagger class changes, connections and recess for K-8
- Space locker assignments to accommodate social distancing

Conducting Large Group Gatherings

- Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor's current statewide Executive Order
- Discourage the congregation of students in parking lots and common areas
- Identify and utilize large spaces for social distancing
- Utilize virtual assemblies for pep rallies and student grade level meetings

Video

- [F2F Safety Actions Video](#)



Student Services Health Considerations

Dr. Lamonica Hillman

BOE Meeting

August 18, 2020

F2F Health Considerations

- **COVID 19 – Point of Contact**
- **School Nurse Clinic**
- **Daily Screenings**
- **Isolation Room**
- **Responding to Illness and Potential Exposure**
- **Communications**

F2F Health Considerations



Point of Contact (POC): Schools Need a Designee, along with Nurse

- Unlicensed Personnel will be trained to answer questions related to COVID-19
- When school nurse is not on campus, the POC will document and report symptomatic and COVID-19 positive to the school nurse and the Nurse Supervisor
- Reports symptomatic and COVID-19 positive staff to administrator
- Along with nurse, keeps a log of students, staff, isolation dates, return to school dates

School Clinic

- Remains open to address day-to-day medical needs, including medication administration
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face shields, masks, gowns, plexi-sneeze guards, hand sanitizer, gloves
- Infrared (no touch) thermometer available in the school clinic
- Signs hung to encourage social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing
- Regular cleaning and disinfection – nurse & custodians

At Home Daily Screenings: Students/staff will screen themselves each day before reporting to the school

COVID-19 Symptoms (per the CDC/DPH)

Fever or chills	Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing	Congestion/runny nose
Cough	New loss of taste or smell	New loss of taste or smell
Sore throat	Nausea or vomiting	Diarrhea
Congestion/Runny nose	Muscle or body aches	Fatigue

[*We will provide the steps to the CDC Home Screening Process](#)

F2F Health Considerations

Supervised Isolation Room

Purpose: To separate persons who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms from others to reduce the chance of spreading and possible infection. *Recommendation for sick students to be picked up within the hour

- Separate room near the clinic with PPE available
Good ventilation; outside door or windows recommended
- Ideally – would have sink
- Dividers to split room for several students/staff
- Daily cleaning and disinfection

Health Considerations

Responding to Illness and Potential Exposure

The following scenarios may require isolation and communication to parents:

Scenario 1: Symptomatic student with COVID-like symptoms

Scenario 2: Asymptomatic student is exposed to someone with COVID-like symptoms and may be awaiting test results

Scenario 3: Asymptomatic student is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 positive person

Scenario 4: Symptomatic student is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 positive person

Scenario 5: Student is confirmed positive for COVID-19

Letter to Parents about Exposure to Confirmed Case: Direct/Close Contact

Letter to Parents about Exposure to Confirmed Case: No Direct/Close Contact

*Staff will consider calling 911 if the sick individual is exhibiting any serious symptoms, including difficulty getting enough air, change in alertness or responsiveness, or bluish lips or face

Communications

- Share the school COVID-19 POC information
- Provide the steps to the home Screening Process
- Communicate that there is no limit on sick notes from parents
- Protocols & Letters (Responses to Scenarios for possible and definite exposures)
- Open House – COVID-19 information made available
- Physical health, Mental Health, and SEL advisement as related to COVID-19



Human Resources Readiness Update

Dr. Cecil Clark

Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

COVID-19 Screening

[COVID-19 Symptoms and Self-Checker \(CDC\)](#)

No symptoms OR Direct Exposure*

No signs of COVID-19 via temp checks, self-reporting, or signs/symptoms

Direct Exposure*, No Symptoms

Came in close contact or interacted with a confirmed case of COVID-19 – experiencing no symptoms

Direct Exposure*, At Least 1 Symptom

Came in close contact or interacted with a confirmed case of COVID-19 – experiencing at least 1 symptom

**Direct exposure – students or staff who have been exposed to a person with known or suspected COVID-19 without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE.*

Diagnosis, No Symptoms

Laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 but experiencing no symptoms (asymptomatic)

Diagnosis with Symptoms

Laboratory-confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19

Students/Staff Response

Proceed to School/Work

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

Can Return to School/Work after:

- Impacted students or staff have completed all requirements in the DPH's ["Return to School Guidance"](#)
- If this person is tested for COVID-19 during the 14 day quarantine period, a negative test result would not change or decrease the time a person is monitored, but a positive test would move the person into one of the below categories, based on whether they are still asymptomatic or have developed symptoms.

Can Return to School/Work after:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);

AND

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Refer to DPH's ["Return to School Guidance"](#)

Can Return to School/Work after:

- At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.

Asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons below.

Refer to [DPH's "Return to School Guidance"](#)

Can Return to School after:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

AND

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Refer to [DPH's "Return to School Guidance"](#)

District/School Response

Implement Preventive Practices

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

Implement Enhanced Mitigation Measures

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

Implement Enhanced Mitigation Measures

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"

AND/OR

Targeted Closure

Close off affected areas (i.e. classrooms, offices, etc.) and if possible, wait 24 hours before deep cleaning and disinfecting

Targeted Closure

Close off affected areas (i.e. classrooms, offices, etc.) and if possible, wait 24 hours before deep cleaning and disinfecting

OR

Short-term Closure

Close for facility-wide deep cleaning

OR

Long-term Closure

Close building(s) for at least 14 days

WITH

Implement Enhanced Mitigation Measures

Implement recommendations outlined in "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools"



DPH DOES NOT recommend using a test-based strategy for returning to school for children or adults (2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart) after COVID-19 infection.* CDC has reported prolonged PCR positive test results without evidence of infectiousness. Although persons may have PCR-positive tests for up to 6 weeks, it remains unknown whether these PCR-positive results represent the presence of infectious virus. At this time, PCR positive specimens capable of producing disease have not been isolated more than 9 days after onset of illness.

More information about the science behind the symptom-based strategy for discontinuing isolation can be found [here](#).

Updated to align with DPH's "Return to School" guidance (reissued 7/22/2020)

Healthcare Agencies and Support

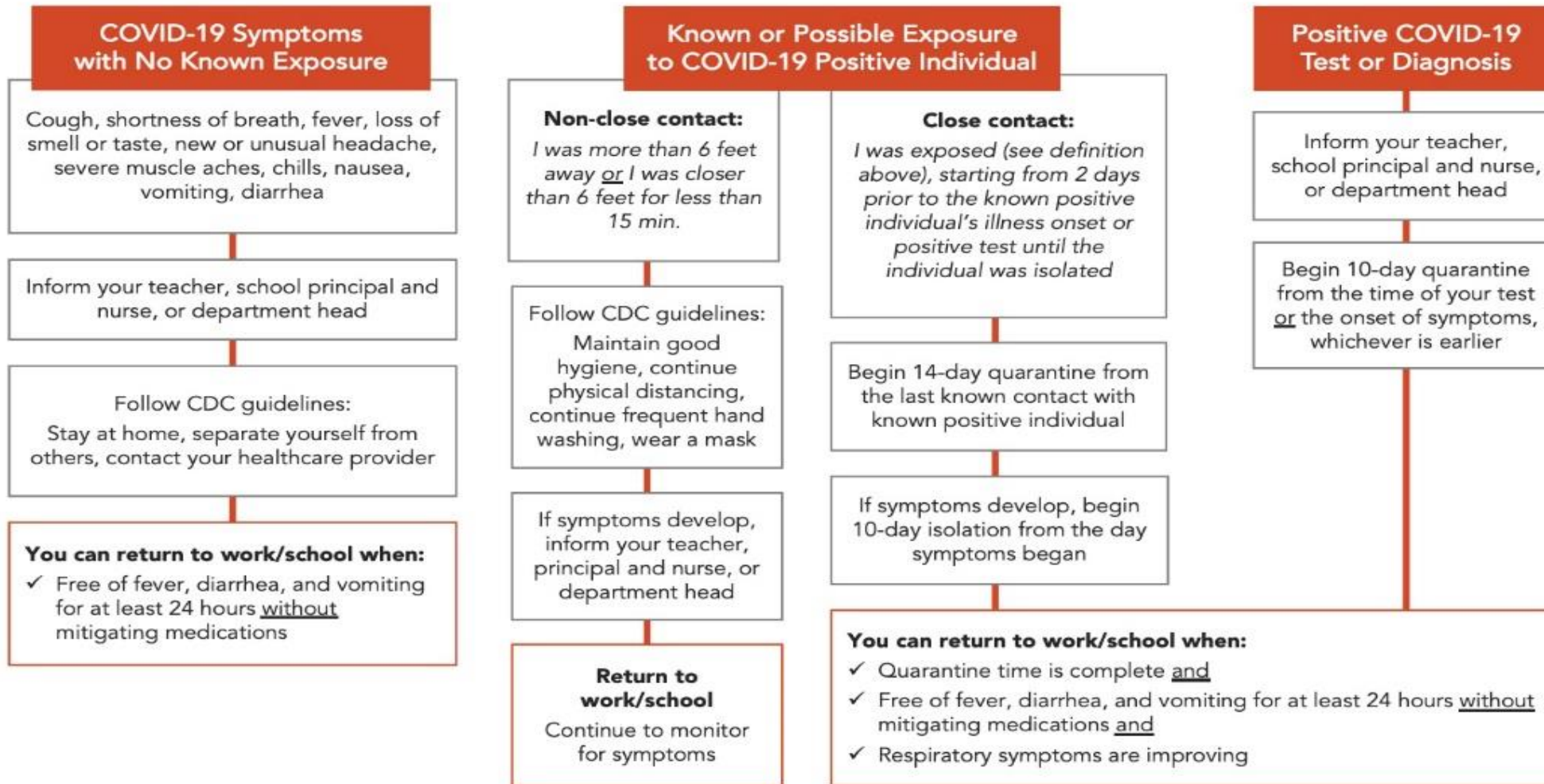


- **Augusta University Medical Center**
 - (706) 721-1852
 - **Established Partnership for COVID-19 Testing for RCSS employees**
- **Richmond County Health Department**
 - (706) 721-5800
- **Human Resources Department COVID-19 Response Line**
 - **Address RCSS employee COVID-19 exposure, testing, benefits and return to work questions**

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PROTOCOLS

Definition of COVID-19 Exposure:

Fewer than 6 feet away for more than 15 minutes (*masks are not a mitigating factor*) to an individual who has tested positive or who has been exposed to a known positive case and is exhibiting 2+ COVID-like symptoms, during their infectious period (*two days prior to their test or first symptoms, until no longer showing symptoms or ten days after their positive test*)



- Employees waiting on test results should not report to work.
- Employees must get clearance from HR to return to work.
- The “time based” return to work strategy is consistent with CDC guidance.

- Provides employees limited paid leave for COVID-19 related illness and circumstances from April 1- Dec 31, 2020
- Full-time employees are entitled to a total of **80 hours** of paid sick leave.
- Part-time employees are entitled to a number of hours of paid sick leave equal to the number of hours that such employee works, on average, over a 2-week period.
- When an employee exhausts FFCRA paid sick leave, employee sick leave is used to cover absences.

The reasons an employee is entitled to paid sick time under the FFCRA

1. The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19
2. The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19
3. The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis
4. The employee is caring for an individual who is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19 or who has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19
5. The employee is caring for a son or daughter of such employee if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, or the child care provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions
6. The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor

COVID-19 Testing Summary March –August 12, 2020

Month	Number Processed	Positive Cases	Negative Cases	Results Pending	Deaths
March 2020	1	0	1	0	0
April 2020	26	0	26	0	0
May 2020	19	0	19	0	0
June 2020	8	6	2	0	0
July 2020	117	36	73	9	1
August 2020	53	22	28	2	0
Total	224	64	149	11	1

Sample Impacted Employee Letter



RICHMOND COUNTY



BOARD OF EDUCATION

864 Broad Street – 4th Floor
Augusta, Georgia 30901-1215
(706) 826-1124 – Fax: (706) 826-4613

MR. JIMMY V. ATKINS, JR.
President

KENNETH BRADSHAW, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MRS. VENUS CAIN
Vice-President

August 8, 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMPACTED EMPLOYEES:

Late yesterday, our school system was notified that an employee at Cross Creek High School tested positive for coronavirus. You are receiving this letter because you came in direct contact with the individual. We are working with the Richmond County Health Department and Georgia Department of Health to make sure we follow their guidelines closely to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At the guidance of Georgia Department of Health officials, please self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days and get tested immediately for coronavirus. You are not to return to work until you have clearance from a healthcare provider. Coronavirus testing is available and required before returning to work, call 706-721-1852 for testing. For testing please contact HR at 706-826-1010.

The individual who tested positive did not experience symptoms while at the school. Georgia Department of Health officials will contact you regarding your contact with the individual who tested positive for coronavirus. They will also be able to answer your questions.

During the 10 day period, monitor your symptoms and if you become symptomatic (cough, fever greater than 100.4, fatigue and shortness of breath) contact your primary care physician or call 706-721-1852 immediately to inform them that you have been in direct contact with a known case of COVID-19. You will continue to be compensated during this self-isolation period. If you have any questions regarding your pay, please call your immediate supervisor.

Please continue to take all precautions to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and follow self-isolation guidance from the CDC.

Privacy laws prohibit the disclosure of identifying information about the employee. We will continue to update you as more information is available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Bradshaw".

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw
Superintendent of Schools

RCSS Agreement and Affirmation



AGREEMENT AND AFFIRMATION

REGARDING SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES

In recognition of the vital role of the Richmond County School System to the academic, emotional, social, and economic well-being to the children of Richmond County, as well as to our entire community,

AND

In appreciation of the tremendous service and talent all School System employees provide in implementing our mission to educate, nurture and guide our students as well as to provide essential services for the crucial day-to-day operations of one of the largest school systems in the State,

AND

In light of the challenges and inherent dangers presented by the current pandemic, the Superintendent and the entire administration and Board of Education seek to safely continue the crucial mission of our School System while implementing guidelines and procedures to ensure the health and safety of all of our students and employees by taking actions and precautions to mitigate the risks caused by COVID-19.

TO THAT END, WE, THE ENTIRE RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM COMMUNITY, HEREBY enter into the following agreement and affirm our commitment to foster a vibrant and safe learning environment while mitigating and limiting the possibility of transmission of illness within our school settings and facilities.

- Commitment to do all we can to keep each other safe.
- Posted on website and emailed to staff.

COVID-19 Staffing Impact

- School-based and operations personnel are adequately allocated to support re-opening schools (staffing at 98%)
 - Teachers and school-based staff scheduled to report F2F beginning 8/24
- COVID Related Absences
 - 3-5 days for testing dependent upon exposure timeline
 - 24-72 Hours for Test Results (AU)
 - 7-10 days is average time away from work for testing/ results
 - Anticipate an increase of COVID-19 leave requests based upon current trends
 - Possible limited substitute pools for both certified and classified staff



Athletics Update

Mr. Scott McClintock
Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

- Acclimation and Practice workouts are allowed and sports specific equipment may be used and should be sanitized between sessions.
- Grouping of athletes was required until late July; No longer required, and still encouraged.
- Staff and athletes are screened prior to each workout.
- Each student should have their own water bottle (water bottles can be refilled at practice). No use of fountains or “water cows.”
- Use of locker rooms or shower facilities are acceptable with the following guidance.
 - Facilities and all equipment should be sanitized after each practice.
 - Social Distancing should be practiced. If needed, groups should dress in stages.
 - Masks/Face coverings are highly recommended for locker room, weight room and indoor athletic facilities.
 - Students shall not congregate in locker room and indoor facilities.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and readily available.
- Masks/Face coverings are highly recommended for Coaches/Staff at all times.
- Social distancing should be adhered to as much as possible.

August 6, 2020 – New guidance concerning the following sports and activities

- Football
 - Cancel all scrimmages
 - Continue with conditioning of athletes
 - First day for football games is September 4th
- Cheerleading
 - Continue to practice as outlined by prior guidance
 - Adjust competition season (first date of competition will now be November 21, 2020)
- One-Act Play
 - Move to spring semester due to the indoor venues and aerosol spray from projection and singers (dates forthcoming)
- Softball
 - [Special Considerations and Rules Modifications softball.pdf](#)
- Volleyball
 - [GHSA Special Considerations for Volleyball Rules Modificationscx.pdf](#)

COVID-19 Impact on Athletics

- Positive COVID-19 cases in HS Athletics as of August 13, 2020
 - 5 Coaches
 - 2 Trainers
 - 4 Student Athletes
- All cases are reported to the GHSA, the County Athletic Director and the Assistant Superintendent over athletics immediately.
- School administration investigates the cases along with the coaching staff.
- Findings are reported to Central Office Senior Team and guidance is provided to the schools based on the GHSA, CDC, and The Georgia Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools. *Based on the findings, RCSS may temporarily suspend athletics activities.
- Parents and students will be notified of potential exposure.



Recommendations

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw

Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

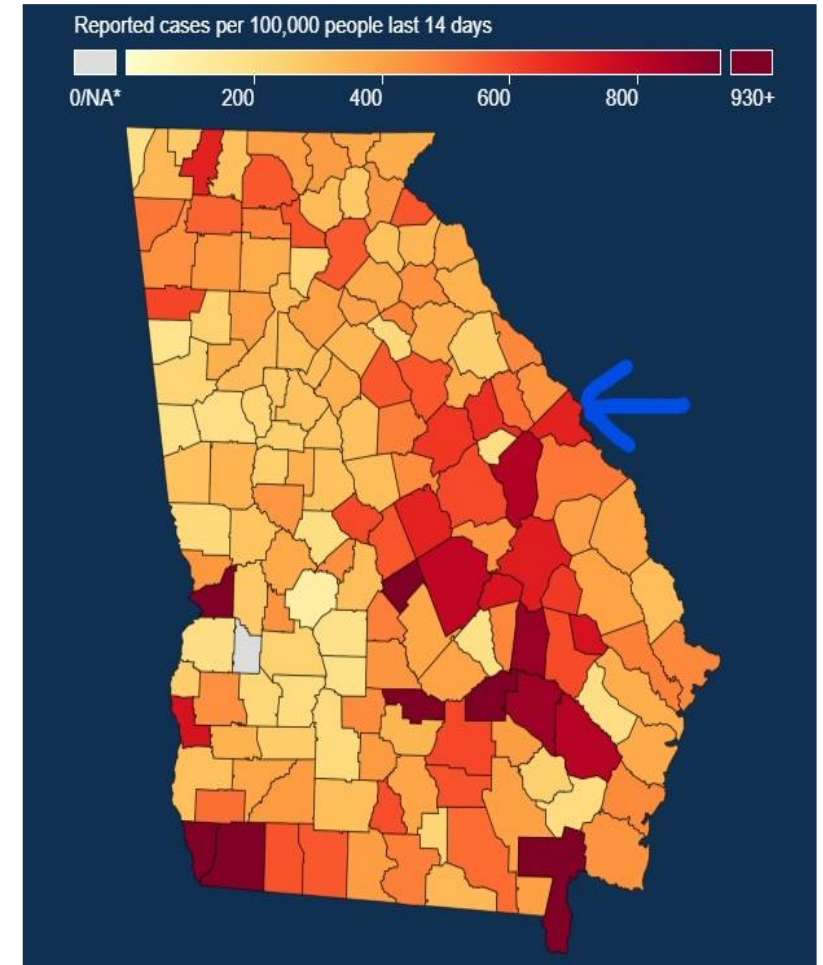
Considerations

- Health and safety of RCSS students and staff
- Ability to advance primary goal to educate students
- Community spread of COVID-19
- Student access to technology
- Ability to maintain adequate staffing

Richmond County COVID-19 Data*

- Cases per 100k Richmond County Residents: 2567
- Reported Cases per 100k Last Two Weeks: **693**
- Percent of Positive Cases Tested August 07 –13:
 - Richmond County **17.5%**
(State average is 10.8%)

Goal of 5% or less is recommended by the Infectious Disease Society of America and National Superintendents Association



*Data through August 17, 2020 at 3:00pm

Richmond County is marked by the blue arrow on the map. Deep red indicates a high number of reported COVID-19 cases over the most recent 2 week period.

- **September 1** – Schedule a Called BOE Meeting to discuss moving forward with F2F Learning based on community spread data.
- **September 8** – Goal: Begin Online and F2F Instruction for K-5
- **September 10** – Goal: Begin Online and F2F Instruction for Grades 6-12

September 8 – Goal is to begin F2F and online instruction.

September 15– Scheduled BOE Meeting - Discuss F2F Plans for a September 21, 2020 Reopening and provide an Online Learning Update.

Alternative Target Dates for F2F Instruction

- Target 2
 - Grades K-5 – **Monday, September 21, 2020**
 - Grades 6-12 – **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**
- Target 3
 - Grades K-5 – **Monday, October 19, 2020**
 - Grades 6-12 – **Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

- Athletics
 - Continue to monitor GHSA guidance and community spread data.
- Teachers and school-based staff report F2F beginning 8/24.



Reopening Update

Richmond County Board of Education Meeting

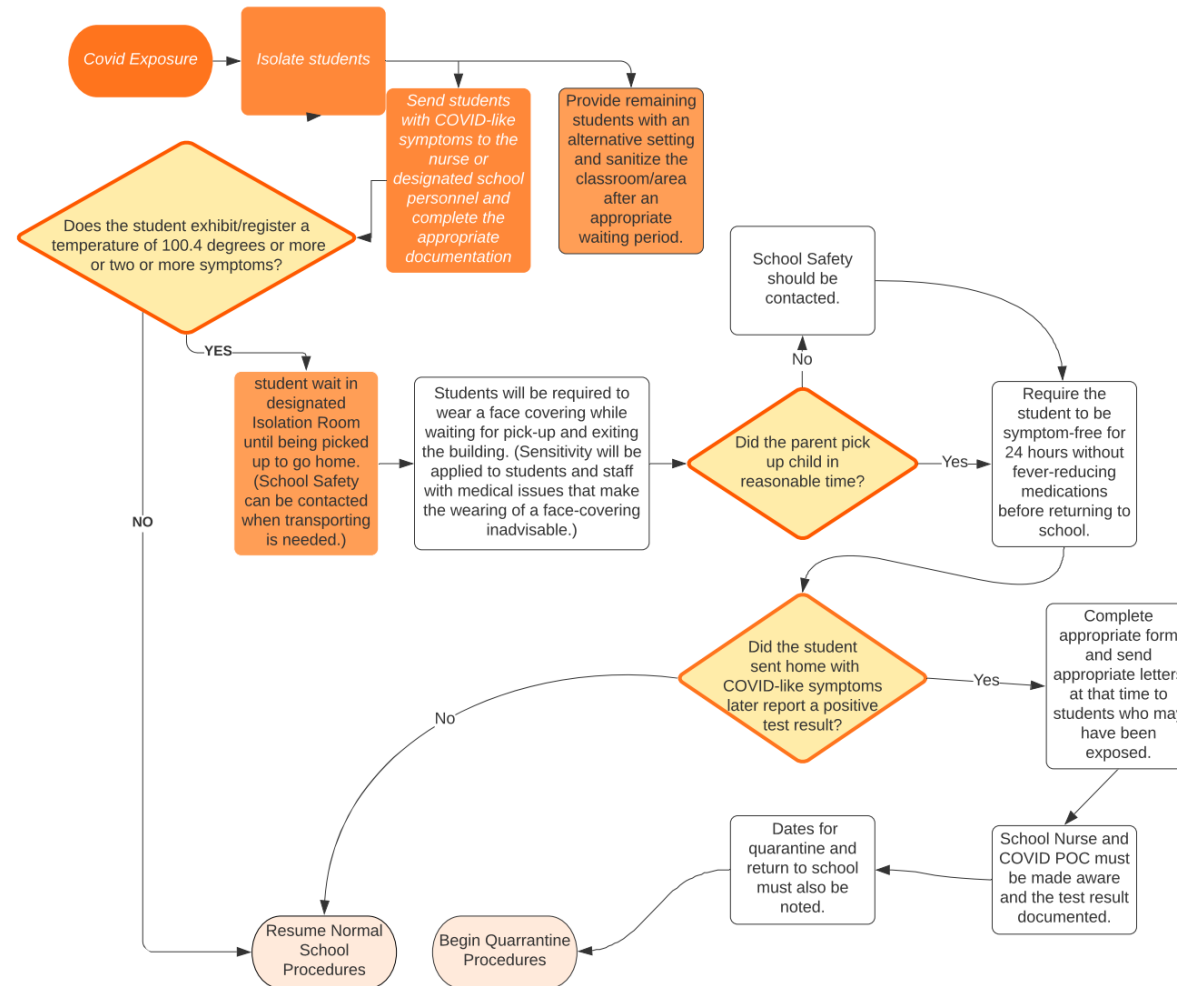
August 18, 2020

Appendix A

Exposure Scenario Flow Charts

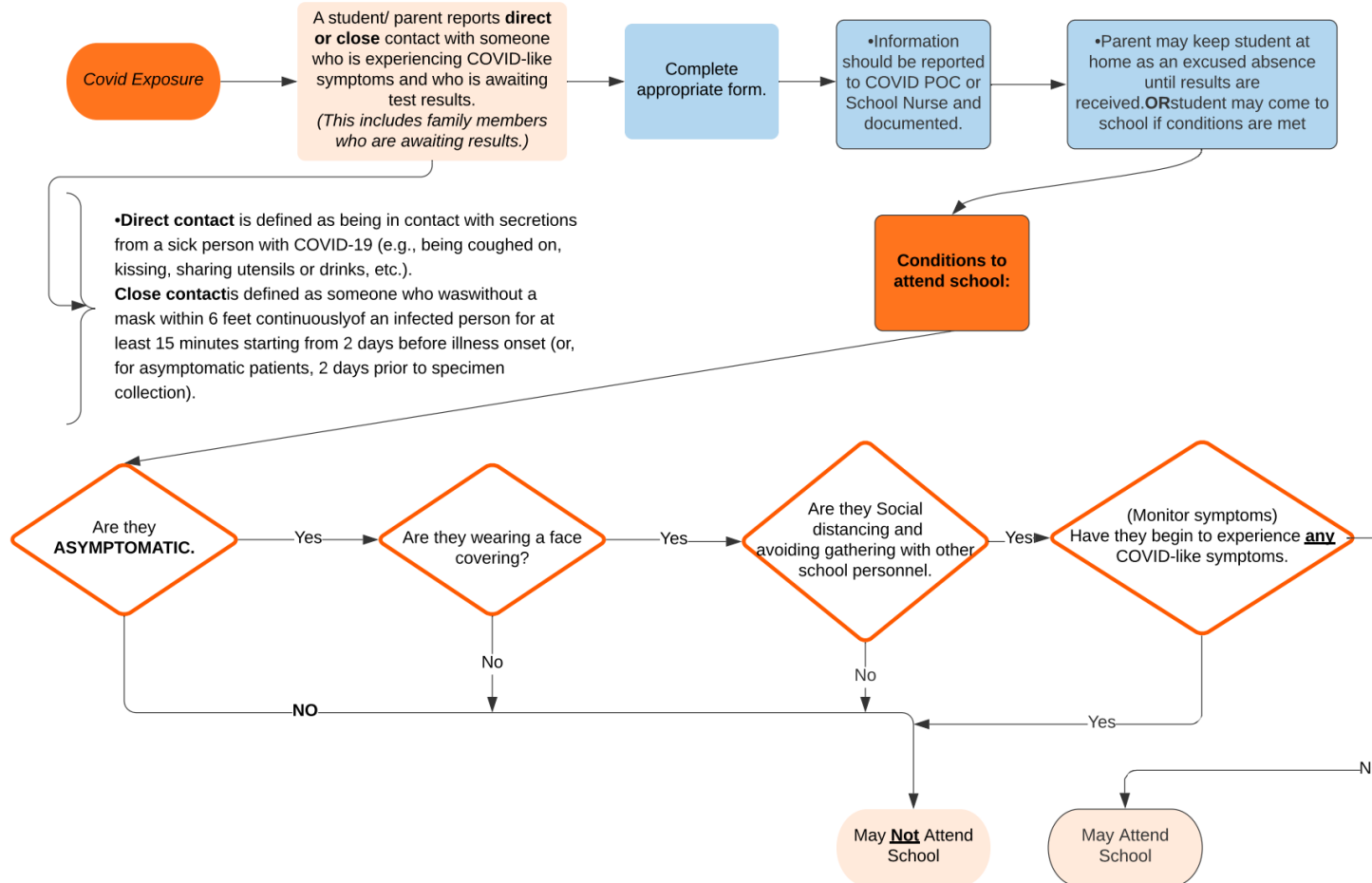
Scenario 1- Student is ill with COVID-like symptoms

Courtney Mayes | August 12, 2020



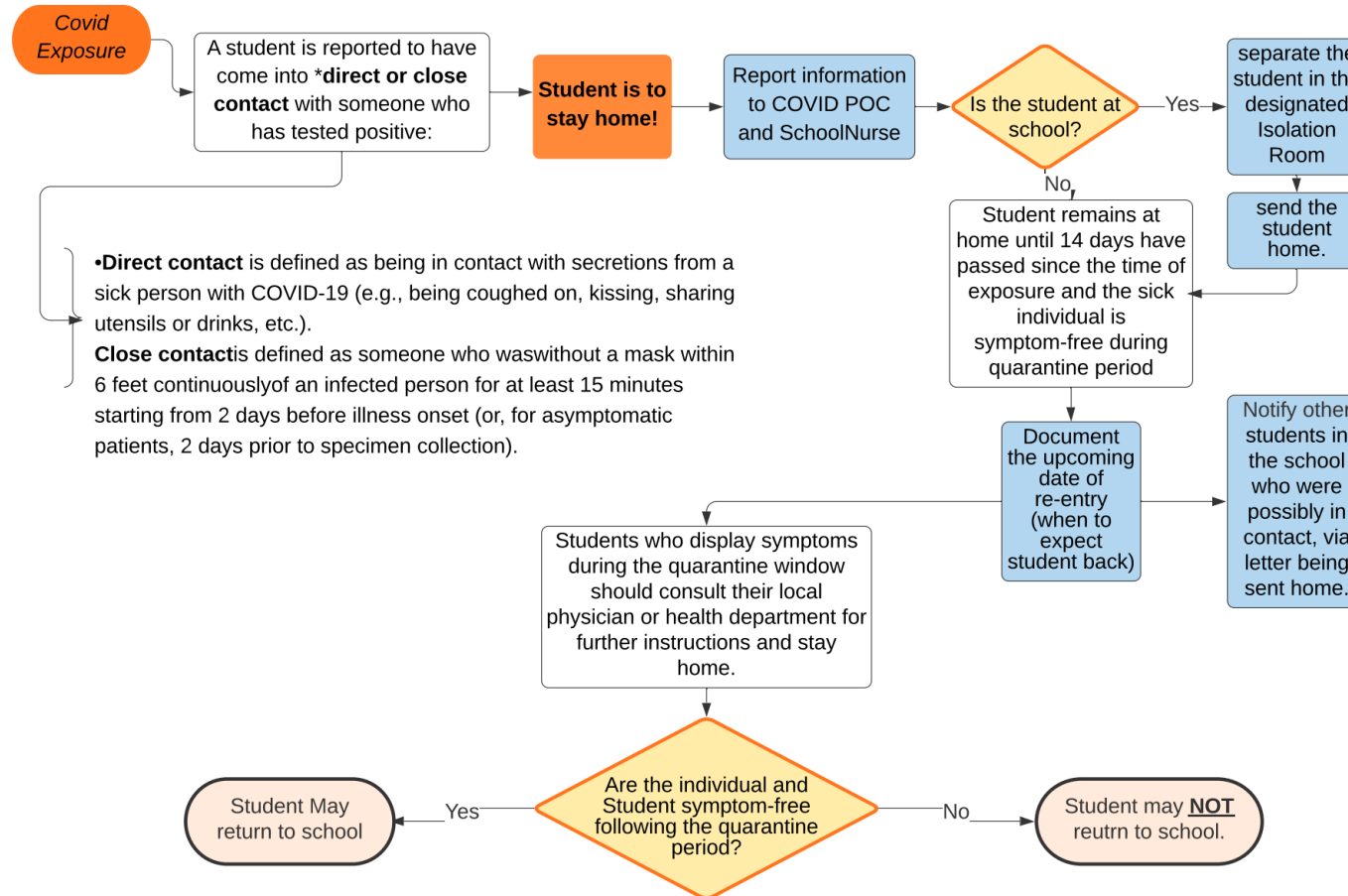
Scenario 2: Asymptomatic Student is exposed to someone who is ill with COVID-like symptoms and may be awaiting test results

Courtney Mayes | August 12, 2020



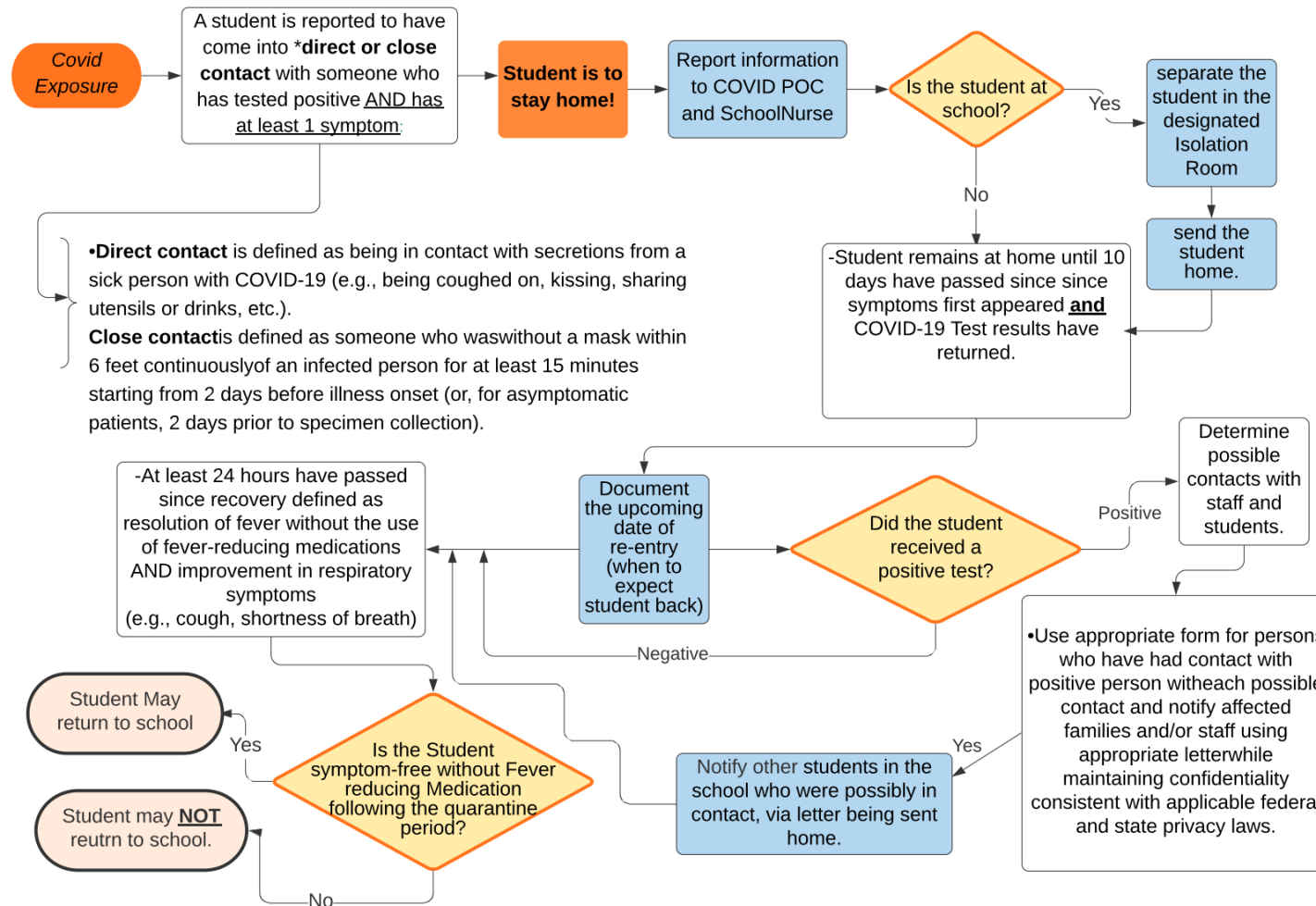
Scenario 3: Asymptomatic Student is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 positive person

| August 12, 2020



Scenario 4: Symptomatic Student is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 positive person

| August 12, 2020



Scenario 5: Student is confirmed to be positive for COVID-19:

| August 12, 2020

