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Quarantine Guidelines for Close Contacts

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) sets quarantine guidelines for Maryland schools based on CDC guidance. CDC has added reduced quarantine options to their guidance. The least restrictive of these guidelines allow for a person who is a close contact of someone positive for Covid-19 to quarantine for seven days, if they obtain a negative PCR test at day five. However, MDH has chosen the ten day option for schools. All students or staff who are deemed a close contact to a Covid-19 positive person must be quarantined for a **minimum of ten days**, even if they test negative. The only exception to this is those who are fully vaccinated, or those who have had a Covid-19 positive diagnosis in the past 90 days. Parents should be aware that state contact tracers may say that their child can be released from quarantine on the seventh day, however they still cannot attend school until after they complete their tenth day of quarantine. If parents have any questions regarding this information they should speak to their child's school nurse.