



October 8, 2020

Quakertown Community School District  
600 Park Avenue  
Quakertown PA 18951

Dear Quakertown Community School District

I am pleased to share the Pennsylvania Department of Health's policy on testing, isolation, and quarantine related to COVID-19. For more detailed information, please refer to the Health Advisory "Testing and Management Guidance for Patients After Exposure to SARS-CoV-2" disseminated by the Department on 9/21/20. This Health Advisory provides recommendations and considerations for use of SARS-CoV-2 testing for both people with symptoms of COVID-19 and for asymptomatic people who were exposed to SARS-CoV2. This guidance is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released on September 18, 2020. (<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2020-PAHAN-527-09-21-ADV%20-%20Guidance%20for%20Patients%20After%20Exposure%20to%20SARS-CoV-2.pdf>).

Because of the potential for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, it is important that contacts of individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection be quickly identified and tested. It is recommended that, regardless of the presence of symptoms, close contacts should be tested for COVID-19. Close contacts are people who have been within 6 feet of a person with documented SARS-CoV-2 infection for at least 15 minutes during the infectious period. Asymptomatic individuals with a known possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2, should wait at least 2-3 days before being tested to increase the likelihood that the test will detect virus if present.

Pending test results, the patient should self-quarantine at home and stay separated from household members to the extent possible and use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available. If the test is positive, then the patient needs to isolate at home until they meet the criteria for discontinuation of non-healthcare isolation. A single negative test does not mean that the patient will remain negative at any time point after that test. As such, patients under quarantine after being exposed to SARS-CoV-2 must complete their full quarantine period. A negative test result does NOT allow the patient to end their quarantine period early. *Individuals who are quarantined should stay home for 14 days after their last known contact.*

If a close contact develops symptoms, even if the symptoms are mild, the contact should promptly seek testing. If a patient is being evaluated for COVID-19 and has symptoms compatible with the disease, healthcare providers may advise SARS-CoV-2 testing. While waiting for the test results, the patient must isolate. *If the test results are positive, the patient must continue to self-isolate at home for at least 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of*



*fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications and with improvement of other symptoms*

We sincerely appreciate your interest in the Department's stance on these issues and share your desire to keep Pennsylvanians safe and healthy, especially the most vulnerable among us, including our children. If you have further questions please reach out to my Administrative Assistant – Tina Barnett-Novosel [tbarnettno@pa.gov](mailto:tbarnettno@pa.gov) or 717-571-6200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wendy E. Braund'. Below the signature, the text 'MD MPH MSED FACPM' is written in a smaller, handwritten font.

Wendy E. Braund, MD, MPH, MSED, FACPM  
COVID-19 Response Director  
Pennsylvania Department of Health