

Summary

Week 18 – December 14-18, 2020

COVID-19 Data

Haywood County Schools

2020-2021

HCS Staff/Student COVID-19 Numbers (Case/Exposure Information)

Please find attached current HCS numbers related to COVID-19. We will NOT be sharing names publicly because it would be a breach in confidentiality; however, please note that we will be following contact tracing guidelines which include ASSIGNED SEATING from Bus to Dismissal to Home. ***If/when a staff member is notified by a parent or guardian that a child has tested positive or has been a direct contact to a positive in the home, please alert your school administration, so they can contact Julie Taylor, Nurse Supervisor, to begin contact tracing and conversations with our health department.***

Key Terms and Definitions:

- **Isolation** is used to keep an individual who has been infected with SARS-CoV-2 away from people who are not infected in order to slow the spread of the disease. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have symptoms of COVID-19 are to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the onset of their symptoms or, if they never developed symptoms, from the date their positive test was collected. Additionally, the individual must be free of fever (without fever reducing medications) and must have improvement of COVID-19 symptoms for at least 24 hours before leaving isolation.
- **Quarantine** is used to keep close contacts (within six feet of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 for fifteen or more minutes in a 24-hour period.) of infected individuals away from people who have not been exposed in order to slow the spread of the disease. Individuals who have been exposed may become infectious at any time within 10 days of their last exposure to an individual with COVID-19.
- **Cohorting** refers to the placement of students or staff into small groups that remain together over a time. For example, rather than students in a classroom of 20 being able to mix throughout the day, teachers could consider subdividing the class into smaller groups of students, perhaps four groups of five students, that would sit together and participate in activities together, rather than mixing randomly with larger group. In this way, if one of the students become infected with the virus, only the smaller group of contacts would require quarantine. Similarly, teachers might cohort by limiting close contact to those who teach in the same grade, have classrooms in the same hallway, or teach in the same department.
- **Identification of Contacts (contact tracing)** refers to the process through which the close contacts of an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 are identified and instructed to quarantine. As it is critical that contacts are identified and excluded from school as quickly as possible to prevent further spread of the virus, schools are asked to put procedures in place that will allow for school staff to quickly complete that identification.
 - All classes are **required** to have **assigned seating** to facilitate them rapid identification of contacts should the school become aware of an infectious individual
 - Schools are encouraged to have a central location where ALL seating charts are kept. When the school is notified of an infected individual, a designated staff member pulls the student's class schedule, pulls the seating charts for those classes, and notifies the parents of the students who are seated within six feet of that individual of their exposure to COVID-19. Those **contacts are to quarantine** for 14 days from the time of

