



September 13, 2021

Rockbridge County Public Schools (RCPS) has one employee at Natural Bridge Elementary School who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus over the weekend. After contact tracing, it was determined that 11 students are required to quarantine. Also, two students at Rockbridge County High School tested positive for COVID-19 resulting in 6 students needing to be quarantined. Lastly, Fairfield Elementary School has one employee who tested positive over the weekend resulting in 2 quarantines. RCPS continues to work closely with the Virginia Department of Health during the contact tracing process.

As defined by the VDH, a person classified as being exposed must have been in contact within 3 feet of a positive case, with or without a mask, for a total of fifteen minutes within a 24-hour period. Also, VDH classifies an exposure as an individual within 6 feet of a positive case, without a mask, for a total of fifteen minutes within a 24-hour period. A person who is in the same building as the positive case does not need to quarantine unless advised to do so by the VDH. Due to State and Federal laws related to privacy, RCPS cannot identify or confirm the identity of individuals who test positive or who quarantine. RCPS continues to recommend all individuals self-monitor for symptoms and remain home when feeling ill.

RCPS continues to recommend that individuals wear face coverings while in public, maintain appropriate social distance, and wash their hands thoroughly and frequently. The Health Department will contact those individuals exposed to a positive case, determines if they meet criteria of a close contact, and if so, instructs them of their requirement to quarantine for 14 days following their most recent exposure to a case. This process is designed to identify all close contacts of a case, whether household, community, work, church, etc. to aid in containment of virus spread.

RCPS will continue to provide clear and concise information to the affected school community and will communicate as much information as possible to ensure public health safety while maintaining personal privacy. Please feel free to visit our RCPS COVID-19 Data Dashboard (<https://www.rockbridge.k12.va.us/domain/262>) to review current COVID conditions across our school division.