



December 4, 2020

Dear Orenda Public Charter School Staff and Families,

You may have heard that the CDC released new guidance on Wednesday which allows for a shortened stay-at-home period for asymptomatic close contacts. TEA released new guidance this morning based on the new CDC recommendation. We have updated our [2020-21 School Start Plan](#) on page 5 to reflect the new guidance. The changes are below along with several important reminders to keep everyone safe.

### **NEW – Reduced Stay-at-Home Period for Asymptomatic Close Contacts**

For **individuals**, including students, teachers, staff or other campus visitors, and volunteers, **who have had close contact (as defined below) with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**, a 14-day stay-at-home period was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus.

As of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended their guidance to allow two shorter options for the stay at-home period. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing **no symptoms**:

- On **Day 10** after close contact exposure **without testing**, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
- On **Day 7** after close contact exposure and **after receiving a negative test result (administered at least 5 days after the last close contact)**, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14. Individuals who are returning on Day 7 will need to provide proof of a negative test prior to returning to campus.

If individuals return to school prior to the end of the 14-day stay-at-home period, they should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., more consistent mask usage) for the duration of the 14-day incubation period.

If the individual experienced **symptoms**, they can return to school when **all three** of the following criteria are met:

1. at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever below 100 degrees without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.



“Close contact” with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19 is defined as:

- being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); OR
- Being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

### **Reminder – How Long to Stay Home due to COVID**

#### **Confirmed COVID or COVID Symptoms (10 Days)**

Any staff or students who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who is **symptomatic** and is diagnosed with COVID, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever below 100 degrees without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - At least **ten days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual that is **asymptomatic** but has received a positive COVID test result, the individual may not return to the campus until **ten days** have passed since a positive test.
- In the case of an individual who has **symptoms** that could be COVID and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID, such individual is assumed to have COVID, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has **symptoms** that could be COVID and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician’s office or approved testing location) that comes back negative for COVID.

**Reminder – Importance of Face Coverings:** Local county health department data supports that wearing face coverings decreases the spread of the virus between individuals and is one of the factors considered when determining close



contact. Keep up the good work of wearing your face covering to reduce the spread of COVID.

**Reminder – Parent Notification to School:** If your student has COVID symptoms, is lab-confirmed with COVID, or close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID, parents need to email the campus administrator and keep their child home from school. Students can still participate in remote instruction. When emailing the campus administrator, please include the date symptoms first appeared, date of lab-confirmed test, and/or last date of close contact with a lab-confirmed case.

As we say here at Orenda, stay positive and test negative!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla Silber'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carla Silber  
Superintendent/COO  
Orenda Public Charter School District