

### **Context**

The health and safety of our staff, scholars, and their families is our highest priority. Unfortunately, while COVID-19 is still present in the community it is likely we will see positive cases in our schools. Our goal, therefore, is not to have zero cases, but to have zero cases of in-school transmission.

Our success in preventing in-school transmission is dependent on strict adherence to our health and safety protocols, as well as how we respond when cases do arise in our buildings.

It is important to recognize that no two COVID-positive circumstances are the same, and that how we respond to a specific COVID-positive case is a combination of defined protocols and individual context.

### **Overview of Contact Tracing**

Beyond quarantining staff or scholars who have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, contact tracing is the primary lever we have available to mitigate against further transmission.

Contact tracing is the process by which we identify close contacts who will need to quarantine as a result of exposure to a COVID-positive individual.

The CDC and Cleveland Department of Public Health define a “close contact” as someone who was:

- Within 6 feet of a COVID-positive individual
- For at least 15 minutes
- Starting 48 hours prior to the start of the positive individual’s symptoms OR to the date of testing if the positive case is asymptomatic.
- When precise contact tracing is difficult (e.g. in a classroom setting), we also take into account factors like the age of the students and an assessment of the class’ adherence to mask-wearing and other protocols

A common question: What about siblings of a COVID-positive scholar?

- Household members of a COVID-positive individual are automatically considered a close contact. So if we were to have a COVID-positive scholar with a sibling who has also been in our buildings, the sibling would also be required to quarantine.
- If the sibling also has symptoms or tests positive, we would treat the sibling as a separate positive case and conduct additional contact tracing.
- In the absence of that, any “close contacts” of the sibling are considered a contact of a contact and are not required to quarantine unless circumstances change.

### **Our Contact Tracing Process**

Contact tracing begins when we receive a notification form indicating that a scholar or staff member who has been in a Breakthrough building within the past 14 days has tested positive for COVID-19.

All contact tracing will be conducted by either Tyler Thornton, Hana Halleen, or Megan Johnston in partnership with the Principal and Director of Operations (or team leader if the positive individual

is a Home Office staff member). In most cases, we will also consult directly with our partners at the Cleveland Department of Public Health and with our MetroHealth Medical Director, Dr. Vanessa Maier.

The final decision around who qualifies as a close contact will be made by the contact tracing lead for that particular situation.

### **Quarantining Close Contacts**

Directions about when (and for how long) a scholar or staff member who is determined to be a close contact must stay home from school will be given based on our most recent Return to Work/School Protocols.

Directions about when (and for how long) a scholar or staff member who has been determined to be a close contact must officially quarantine at home will be communicated directly to that individual (parent or guardian if a scholar) by the local health department. Please note that in some cases, out of an abundance of caution, our internal guidance may require a close contact to stay home from school for longer than the official quarantine guidance from the local health department.

It is also important to note that we will not quarantine individuals who we determine to be a contact of a contact unless and until we receive notice of additional positive cases resulting in those individuals officially being determined to be “close contacts”.

### **Handling Multiple Cases at One Campus**

There is no precise prescription for how many cases would lead us to shut down a classroom or an entire campus. If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case in scholars and/or staff in one location at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span at one location, Operations and Human Capital leadership will work with local public health officials and our partners at MetroHealth to determine if it is likely there is transmission happening in the school.

When there is suspected or confirmed in-school transmission, school and network leaders will determine next steps, which could include for example making a decision to a) close part of the school/building or the entire building for a short time for an extensive cleaning or b) close the building partially or fully for the longer duration of the 14-day quarantine period.

Multiple confirmed COVID-19 cases in one location at one time that are all determined to be a result of community spread could also result in partial or full building closure, depending on the number of cases, our ability to conduct precise contact tracing, and the impact of cases and contact tracing results on the ability to adequately staff the building in a manner aligned with our health and safety protocols.