



COVID-19



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



SCHOOL REPORTING RESPONSE PLAN

JANUARY 13, 2021

Updates & Revisions

Initial Release Date: September 18, 2020

Date: | Revision Description:

- 09/23/2020** Table of Contents and page numbers added. Second email address added to Cameron County COVID-19 School Notification Form. Updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- 09/29/2020** Updated FAQs. Added on site/remote learning and lab report areas to Cameron County COVID-19 School Notification Form updated.
- 01/13/2021** Updated FAQs. Update to Reporting A New COVID-19 Case In School algorithm.



Table of Contents

Overview	1
Fact Sheet	2
Reporting a New COVID-19 Case in School	3
Cameron County COVID-19 School Notification Form	4
COVID-19 Exposed Close Contact Form	5
Sample Letter to Parents	6
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	7
Print Material	12
Reference Material	17



OVERVIEW

In response to the reopening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cameron County Public Health has developed the COVID-19 School Reporting Response Plan. The primary purpose of this document is to provide school districts a system for reporting a student and/or staff who has been identified as having tested positive for COVID-19.

Cameron County Public Health is cognizant of the fact that the COVID-19 situation is very fluid and that there may be a need to revise the document as the situation warrants. In order to provide the most updated information and guidance, this document will be based on health information as it is updated by the Texas Department of State Health Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or other leading health authorities and will be revised and updated accordingly and in a timely manner.

Any questions or inquiries regarding this packet may be directed to Ashley Ruiz or Raquel Castillo.

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FACT SHEET

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2.

Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Fever or feeling feverish
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list is not all-inclusive.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). In general, the more closely a person interacts with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Prevention

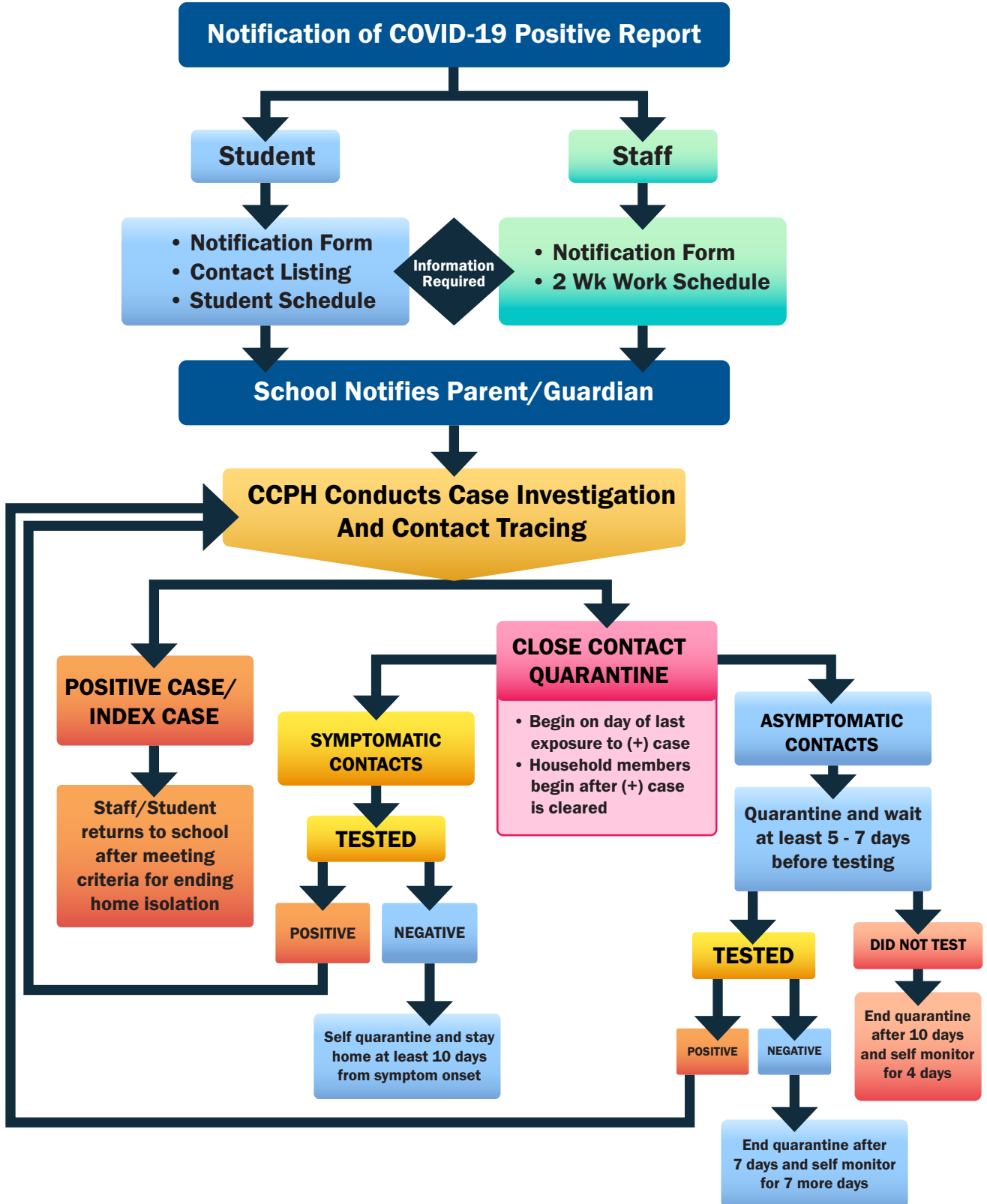
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for distancing.
- If you are not wearing a cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- If you are sick, call your healthcare provider and isolate.





REPORTING A NEW COVID-19 CASE IN SCHOOL

January 13, 2021





Cameron County COVID-19 School Notification Form

This form must be used to report cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) to Cameron County Public Health. A public health investigator may contact you for additional information. [Use one (1) Report Form for each individual case submitted.]

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY ▶ **CC#:** _____ **Case#:** _____

ISD Reporting Facility: _____ **School:** _____ **Date Submitted:** _____

Name of Person Submitting Report: _____ **Telephone Number:** _____

First Name: _____ **MI:** _____ **Last Name:** _____ **Age:** _____ **Sex:** M F On Site Instructions Remote Instructions

Guardian's First Name: _____ **Guardian's First Name:** _____ **Contact Number:** _____ **Student:** Grade _____ **Teacher:** Grade _____ **Staff:** Title _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Name of Physician: _____ **Lab Report Attached:** Yes No

Office Number: _____ **Initial Onset of Symptoms:** ___/___/___ **Were Isolation Instructions Provided?** Yes No **Date:** ___/___/___

Specimen Collection Date: ___/___/___ **Was Student Sent Home?** Yes No **Date:** ___/___/___

Additional Information: _____

Fax to: (956) 361-8296

Email to: schoolreport@co.cameron.tx.us

studentreport@co.cameron.tx.us

To speak to staff or report Immediately Reportable Conditions, call **(866) 326-3397 or (956) 247-3650**

Attached to this Form are: _____ additional page(s).

This fax transmission contains confidential information. The information is intended only for the use of the recipients named above. If you have received this fax in error, please notify sender and destroy. You are cautioned that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or other use of the transmitted information is strictly prohibited. (As per HIPAA & Privacy Act)

SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

--SCHOOL LETTERHEAD--

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are writing this letter to inform you that an individual within your child's school has tested positive for COVID-19. COVID-19, also known as "Coronavirus", is an infectious disease that is spread from person to person and people typically become infected by coming in close contact (within 6 feet) with a person with COVID-19.

In our efforts to stop the possible spread of the disease, Cameron County Public Health is working with us to identify those who were in close contact with the person who tested positive. Cameron County Public Health will be contacting the close contacts and providing further direction as needed. If you are not contacted nor are informed about the need to quarantine, then your child was not identified as a close contact.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following should stay home until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation or quarantine:

- children and staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19,
- children and staff who test positive for COVID-19, but do not have any symptoms, and
- household members and other close contacts of children or staff with COVID-19.

If your child begins experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, consult with a health care provider. Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, fatigue, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and decreased sense of taste or smell.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please notify **the school point of contact** at (956) xxx-xxxx.

Thank you,

School Official



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: If a student who is riding the bus has a temperature of 100.4 and is not allowed to get on the school bus but has siblings that present with no fever, do we allow them to get on the bus but only exclude the febrile student?

A: Yes, only the student who present with a fever will be excluded from riding the bus. The siblings will be allowed to ride on bus and attend school even if they have a symptomatic sibling. However, if student is positive for COVID-19 and has siblings in same household, they must be excluded from bus/school until quarantine period ends. (9/18/2020)

Q: A teacher who tested positive for COVID-19 approximately two months ago is now a close contact to a positive case does he or she need to quarantine?

A: Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to that person. However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to stay home. (9/18/2020)

- Has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months and
- Has recovered and
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Q: What PPE do you recommend for daily use for nurses being exposed to “possible COVID + students”?

A: School nurses are recommended to use a N95 mask, gloves, and gown. If a gown is not available, then scrubs can be used and should be laundered daily. If a gown/mask (N95) is re-worn, please make sure that only the surface that is not contaminated when removing it will be touched. If there are enough masks to switch throughout the week, masks should be alternated and the one not in use should be stored in a paper bag. (9/25/2020)

Q: School healthcare personnel will be at higher risk for possible exposure. Do we follow CDC risk assessment and self-monitor daily if are asymptomatic and not self-quarantine if were wearing bouffant, goggles, mask, shield, double gloves and gown?

A: All healthcare personnel should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms on a daily basis. (9/25/2020)

Q: Are school nurses considered close contact when a student is positive for COVID-19?

A: Generally, if the school nurse wears proper PPE, he/she will not be considered a close contact and will not need to self-quarantine. School nurse should monitor for symptoms 14 days after last exposure with positive case. (9/25/2020)

Q: If a student starts showing symptoms on a Saturday morning, but was in the nurse’s office the day before for another reason for example hurt their ankle and waited over 15 minutes (6 ft distance) in the nurse’s office to go home. Will I have to quarantine as well?

A: If proper PPE was worn, there will not be a need to self-quarantine; however, the school nurse should monitor for symptoms 14 days after last exposure with that positive case. Keep in mind that school nurses should wear proper PPE when evaluating all students. This will keep the exposure risk low. (9/25/2020)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: When there is a positive case on a campus. Do you recommend letters be sent to the whole campus, even if the individual that tested positive was in a completely different building, and there was no exposure?

A: A school district should have a notification plan for the school once a positive case is identified. (9/25/2020)

Q: When informing close contact individuals, do we need to disclose infected person's information?

A: No, infected person's information should not be disclosed. (9/25/2020)

Q: In regards to incubation period, if a student presenting with symptoms that is following incubation period has siblings within the district that are asymptomatic...does CDC/TEA recommend asymptomatic siblings to be quarantined as well?

A: If there is a student that is COVID-19 positive, all family members living in the same household will need to be quarantined. (9/25/2020)

Q: If athlete tests positive and team is being quarantined due to close enclosure would this also include students he/she was in close contact throughout the day?

A: Yes, if the athlete tests positive then all close contacts for prior 48 hours will be recommended to quarantine for 14 days (either team or class). (9/25/2020)

Q: Let's say a student/staff has already isolated for 10 days but is still testing positive, should they isolate for another 10 days then re-test even if they are asymptomatic?

A: If a student/staff has followed their isolation period and they are no longer having any symptoms, their symptoms have resolved and no other family member is sick in the household, then the family is released from isolation and quarantine. They are considered no longer infectious. Please Note: tests can stay positive up to 6 weeks. PCR and antigen tests are not for use as a test of cure, only for screening. (9/25/2020)

Q: Should the classroom doors be open or closed when students are in class?

A: If it is possible, keep them open as it improves airflow. (9/25/2020)

Q: We have designated well area vs sick areas in a larger classroom converted into clinic. Isolation of positive covid would be outside of this room. Is it sufficient to have a student with symptoms in the larger area with partitions and separated from others while they wait for pick up? May or may not be covid. They are masked and physically distanced with HEPA air purifiers in the room. We wouldn't have enough rooms or spaces if we had to isolate many students waiting for pick up.

A: Yes, it is fine to have the students with symptoms in the room with partitions and wearing their mask awaiting for pick up and separated from others. (9/25/2020)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: What if a student is isolated for COVID-19 symptoms on campus and they need to use the restroom and there is not one in the isolation room?

A: Cameron County Public Health recommends having this in the school plans. Designate a restroom that is reserved for this type of situation. The student can be accompanied to the restroom and make sure he/she is wearing a mask, there is no close contact with other students, have a checklist for the student to clean the restroom after use and supervise the cleaning. (9/25/2020)

Q: Can liquid bleach be used in school to disinfect?

A: A full list of disinfectants can be found on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>. If EPA-approved disinfectants are not available, diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours. (9/25/2020)

Q: How long should exposed areas be closed off for before beginning cleaning and disinfection?

A: If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. (9/25/2020)

Q: What if a parent refuses to test their child for COVID and has symptoms?

A: The child will be treated as a presumptive case and be excluded from on-site school instruction, events and activities until they recover as if they were positive for COVID-19. Their physician may also be able to clear them if an alternative diagnosis is made. This may also cause the child's siblings to be quarantined as well since the case may be considered a presumptive case. That determination will be made on a case-by-case basis after discussing with Cameron County Public Health. (9/25/2020)

Q: If students eat in the cafeteria where a COVID + case is later identified, will all students and staff in the cafeteria need to quarantine?

A: Only students who are considered a close contact would be quarantined. The protocols in place should make it so that a single student should not be able to expose all people in the cafeteria. (9/25/2020)

Q: If a middle school or high school student tests positive, will all students and teachers in all the student's classes need to quarantine? Or only those identified as close contacts?

A: This will be determined on a case-by-case basis after discussing with Cameron County Public Health. It is possible that all people in the class could be exposed if precautions were not followed precisely and it will be important to investigate this and have full cooperation from the students and staff. If all protocols were followed, it would be unlikely that an entire class would need to be quarantined. Cameron County Public Health recommends that there NOT be any punitive action taken if there was a lapse in protocol by a student/staff that would warrant the quarantine. This would only encourage dishonesty with the investigation. The priority is to break the cycle of transmission, not punish violations of the mitigation protocols. (9/25/2020)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: Is testing recommended for close contacts?

A: CCPH recommends that close contacts get tested 5-7 days after exposure. If a close contact is symptomatic, we recommend testing right away. However, if close contacts do not get tested, they will need to be in quarantine for 10 days. (1/13/2021)

Q: If a close contact to a case tests negative for COVID during their quarantine, does their quarantine end, thus allowing them to return to school?

A: Yes, the close contact would be able to end their quarantine after the 7th day of last exposure if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. We recommend that they continue to self-monitor their symptoms for the next 7 days. (1/13/2021)

Q: If a household contact of a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19 should the staff member or student be excluded from school?

A: Yes, if someone in the household test positive, they must quarantine due to being identified as a close contact. Quarantine for a household contact may be longer depending on different factors such as, sharing the same room, restroom and not being able to completely stay away from positive COVID case in household. (1/13/2021)

Q: If a student/staff had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 but tested positive for COVID-19 last month. Do they need to quarantine?

A: No. The staff/student who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms. If they develop symptoms again within 3 months from their first test may need to be tested again if there is no other factor for symptoms. (1/13/2021)

Q: If a student/staff is planning to travel, what are the recommendation to return back to school?

A: Possible exposure could happen when traveling. CDC recommends that individuals who travel within the United States should consider getting tested 3-5 days after their trip and reduce non-essential activities for 7 days after travel, even if you test negative. If an individual decides not to get tested, consider reducing non-essential activities for 10 days. (1/13/2021)

For more information regarding abroad travel, please refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>

Q: Do I need to wear a mask when I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Yes. CDC recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside of their household. (1/13/2021)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section will be updated as more inquiries are received and more information becomes available.

Q: If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine when it's available?

A: The COVID-19 vaccine is offered to anyone who meets criteria regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. Anyone currently infected with COVID-19 should wait to get vaccinated until after their illness has resolved and after they have met criteria to discontinue home isolation. However, if you received monoclonal antibodies during your infectious period, you should wait 90 days. (1/13/2021)

Q: Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received 2 doses of the vaccine?

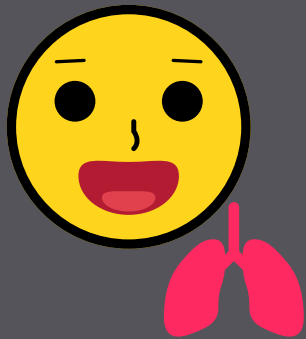
A: Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide, it is important for everyone to continue covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. (1/13/2021)





PRINT MATERIAL

DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE



The eyes, nose and mouth are an entrance to your respiratory system.



Diseases can spread from your hands to your face by touching it.



People touch their face on average about 12 times per hour.

CAMERON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

956-24/7-3650

cameroncounty.us/publichealth





HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS



DON'T RUSH

According to the World Health Organization, the entire handwashing process should take about 40-60 seconds.



WET YOUR HANDS

You can use either cold or warm water. Warm-to-hot water is best for especially soiled hands.



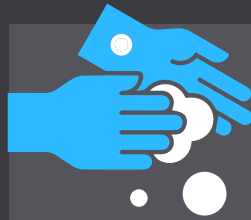
USE SOAP

Apply enough soap to cover all surfaces of your hands.



RUB HANDS

Put your right palm over the back of your left hand with interlaced fingers (and vice versa). Then rub them again palm-to-palm with fingers interlaced.



KEEP GOING

Rub your hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds. Scrub all surfaces, including the backs of your hands, wrists, and under your fingernails.



RINSE

Rinse your hands with water. Dry them thoroughly with a single-use towel or air dryer.



AVOID RECONTAMINATION

Use a single-use towel to turn off the water faucet (if necessary).

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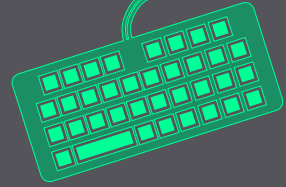
CLEANING & DISINFECTING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT “HIGH-TOUCH” SURFACES

Some examples of “high-touch” surfaces include:

- Tables
- Chairs
- Doorknobs
- Light Switches
- Remotes
- Handles
- Desks
- Keyboards
- Phones
- Tablets
- Toilets
- Sinks



USE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SPRAYS OR WIPES

Use cleaning sprays and wipes according to the label instructions.



WEAR GLOVES WHEN CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after each use. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.

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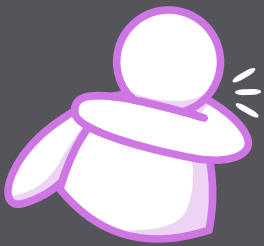




COVER YOUR COUGH



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.



No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or your elbow.
DO NOT cough or sneeze into your hands.



Facemasks are great for protecting others around you if you are sick.



Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

EXPOSED TO COVID-19

CLOSE CONTACT QUARANTINE OPTIONS ALGORITHM

Cameron County Public Health recognizes that a 14 day quarantine is the gold standard; this is an alternative that incorporates testing.

- WHO IS CONSIDERED A CLOSE CONTACT TO SOMEONE WHO TESTED POSITIVE?**
- Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset of the infected person.
 - Someone who provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.
 - Someone who had direct physical contact with the infected person.
 - Someone who shared eating or drinking utensils with the infected person.
 - Someone who sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on themselves by an infected person.

