

TAMC and Moore County Health Department (MCHD) have joined together to coordinate efforts and best practices to ensure consistency and communication throughout these unprecedented times. We will follow data, along with state and federal guidelines, to ensure we are making the best decisions possible for our communities. We will strive to find a balance between normalcy and safety while accommodating all our students and staff to the best of our ability. What is most important is how we all work together to mitigate the impact of increased cases and strive to keep our communities as healthy and safe as possible. This responsibility lies not only in what we do as a school and health district, but also in what we do as individual citizens, following the necessary precautions to keep each other safe.

In an effort to outline what to expect over the coming school year, we will work to provide updates and additional information on the public health response. TAMC and MCHD will work closely together once a teacher, staff, or student tests positive for Covid-19. Our aim is to provide transparent communication, while protecting privacy, in order to maintain trust with the communities we vehemently serve. As we are made aware of confirmed cases, TAMC will follow the lead of our health partners, who will initiate communication with individuals as necessary.

MCHD has and will continue to follow the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) guidelines on contact tracing of all individuals who may have had close contact with a positive case. There are many factors involved in determining who is considered close contact, which is why TAMC works closely with MCHD when a student or staff member presents with symptoms. Caregivers and household members of the positive patient are considered close contacts.

When contacts are identified, MCHD works with the patient and the school to ensure that all contacts are properly notified in a timely manner. MCHD and TAMC will adhere to the following steps:

1. MCHD staff will contact the positive case-patient and determine all the people the case-patient has been in close contact with during their period of infectivity, which at this point is 2 days prior to onset of symptoms.
2. Only close contacts who had contact with the case-patient during the period of infectivity are notified.
3. Contacts are notified of their exposure and asked to quarantine and monitor for increased temperature or other Covid-19 symptoms.
4. MCHD staff will instruct the contact to quarantine for 14 days from the date of last contact with the case-patient. If symptoms arise, the contact is to notify MCHD, their family physician, and their child's teacher.
5. If a family member of the positive case-patient begins to show symptoms, the timeline for that household resets. The 14 day quarantine begins with the first day of new symptoms. The MCHD and your family physician will help guide you, should this situation occur in your household.

We understand the importance of providing our community public health information, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS § 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws. We look forward to working with you to best serve our children's health and education.