



South Fayette Township School District

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Yesterday, March 19, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated recommendations for the [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention](#). In the posting, the CDC revised physical distancing recommendations to reflect at least three feet between students in classrooms in most cases with six feet still being the optimal distance.

However, **what has not changed are the recommendations for contact tracing.** In the same document, the CDC states the following:

- The definition of a [close contact](#) is someone who was within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period. The definition of a close contact applies regardless of whether either person was wearing a mask.
- For schools that use less than 6 feet between students in classrooms, the definition of close contacts should not change. Students sitting less than 6 feet next to another student or person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more should quarantine at home and be referred for testing.

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has confirmed that there is not a change in practice as to close contacts. Therefore, we are required to continue to follow the six feet guideline above for contact tracing. Although Allegheny County has been in the “moderate level” for community transmission, school districts across the county are experiencing an increase in positive student cases. The ACHD reports that the majority of these cases stem from family contacts and out-of-school activities and gatherings. We need to continue to work as a community to follow health and safety guidelines at all times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Lockette
Superintendent of Schools