

HCS COVID-19 Parent Notification Process

Horry County Schools

After HCS has been notified of a new positive case of COVID-19 affecting students and/or staff, HCS will follow one of the scenarios below:

Scenario 1: The parents/guardians of any student who has been a “close contact” of the infected individual (defined by SCDHEC as having been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) will be notified by the school via phone call, by email, and by SCDHEC letter that their student is subject to state-mandated quarantine procedures, and informed about how long the student must stay home.

Scenario 2: The parents/guardians of any student who shares a classroom or was in a group setting with an infected individual will be notified by the school via email and by SCDHEC letter. Students who shared a classroom or was in a group setting but who did not meet the definition of “close contact” are not required to stay home.

SCDHEC releases a bi-weekly report (Tuesdays and Fridays) which includes the number of positive cases by each school in Horry County. The data are reported in two ways: a cumulative list and a 30-day list. Both data will be reported on the school level, differentiate between students and staff, and will be suppressed to prevent potential identification of individuals who have the disease due to HIPPA regulations. HCS will maintain the privacy rights of our parents, students, and staff impacted by COVID-19 or any other health-related conditions. A link to this [report*](#) is available on all school websites under HCS Announcements.

* You can also view the report by visiting www.scdhec.gov/covid-19-cases-associated-staff-students.

HCS will work in conjunction with SCDHEC if the number of positive cases results in the need to switch to full-time Distance Learning for individual classes, grade levels, or schools during the school year. If any instructional changes are needed, additional information will be shared with parents and students by your school's principal.

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