

Duplin County Schools and the Duplin County Health Department are committed to giving children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and healthy environment. Our long-standing partnership allows us to work together to meet the needs of our children and we will continue this commitment as we work through the challenges of COVID-19.

In the event that a student or staff member is determined to be suspected, presumptive, or confirmed, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The school nurse in conjunction with the principal shall contact the Duplin County Health Department Public Nurse II-Communicable Disease Coordinator.
2. The Duplin County Health Department will work to identify and notify individuals who have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive.
3. Once a positive case has been confirmed by the Duplin County Health Department, the district, in a strong desire to be as transparent as possible, will send a school-wide Connect-Ed message to all families in the affected school. *As always, parents and guardians are encouraged to ensure they have provided the school with current contact information.*

As outlined in the [Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 \(K-12\)](#) provided by the NC Department for Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), the Duplin County Health Department is responsible for contacting students, staff, and families when they become aware of suspected, presumptive, or confirmed cases of COVID-19. Also as indicated in the above document, schools must follow privacy requirements as outlined in [NC GS§ 130A-143](#)

The NCDHHS will publicly report ongoing clusters (i.e. minimum of five cases) through an online dashboard to include childcare facilities and school settings. The [COVID-19 Ongoing Clusters in Child Care and School Settings Report](#) will be updated every Tuesday and Friday by 4:00 p.m.

We appreciate our local public health partners who are leading the charge in these efforts to keep our students and staff safe. Together we are stronger and we will continue to do whatever it takes to keep our students healthy and safe as we navigate the challenges of COVID-19.