

February 4, 2022

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Morgan Autism Center COVID-19 Guidelines**

**February 2022:** The high transmissibility of the Omicron Variant has required updates to Morgan Autism Center's exposure and quarantine policies. These policies closely follow TK-12 guidelines provided by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

Below, please find a list of frequently asked questions designed to assist you in understanding how the guidance can potentially impact programming for your student or adult client.

**1. Question: Given the rise in transmissibility, what should I expect regarding my student/client if they are exposed to COVID-19?**

**Answer:** Morgan Autism Center has seen the rate of positive COVID cases increase significantly in the month of January, 2022. Santa Clara County Guidance states that individuals who have been exposed may be eligible for no or modified quarantine if they meet certain criteria:

- No symptoms
- Negative test
- Consistently wear a mask

Given that most of our students do not wear masks, there is an increased likelihood that your child or adult will be exposed and be required to quarantine for 5 days. When an exposure occurs, it is likely that all the students/clients in a classroom/program have been exposed. Consequently, many exposure scenarios require individual classrooms/program to quarantine and move to virtual programming for that period.

**2. Question: How is Exposure/Close Contact defined?**

**Answer: Exposure/Close Contact-** <6 feet from a confirmed case for 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24 hour period, beginning 48 hours prior to symptom onset or positive test, whichever occurs first.

**3. Question: What is the definition of Fully Vaccinated?**

**Answer:** Adults boosted or vaccinated but not yet eligible for the booster (dose too recent); anyone who had COVID within the last 90 days; or anyone ages 5-17 who completed their initial series.

**4. Question: What is the difference between “Isolation” and “Quarantine”?**

**Answer:** Both words mean staying home, without contact with others, for a certain period of time in order to prevent the spread of disease. “Isolation” is used for a person who has tested positive for COVID or is symptomatic and is likely contagious. “Quarantine” is used if a person was in close contact with someone who had a positive test result and might become contagious in the near future.

**5. Question: If my student or client is exposed to COVID, what should I do?**

**Answer:** See below for details related to individual circumstances.

**Students/clients who are fully vaccinated and can wear a mask:** May immediately return to school/Adult Program as long as they are asymptomatic. Exposed individuals must test immediately after exposure and again on day 5.

- Morgan Autism Center teachers and AP directors will determine whether a student or client wears a mask consistently in the MAC environment.

**Students who are unvaccinated:** Must quarantine for 5 days at home. Students/Clients must have a negative antigen test result and no symptoms on day 5 before returning to campus.

**Students/Clients who cannot consistently mask:** Must quarantine for 5 days at home. Students/Clients must have a negative antigen test result and no symptoms on day 5 before returning to campus.

It is critical to monitor exposed individuals for symptoms for a full 10 days. If that individual develops any symptoms in that period, they must isolate and test immediately.

**6. Question: What do I do if my student/client receives a positive diagnosis for COVID?**

**Answer:** Isolate your student/client to the degree that is possible. Communicate the positive test results to Morgan Autism Center immediately (please call the office). Communicate with family, friends, caregivers, and service providers outside of Morgan Autism Center that they may have been exposed. Follow the guidelines below for return to campus timeline:

- Students/Clients who **can** mask consistently and receive a negative antigen test on/after day 5, may return to campus if symptoms have resolved.
- Students/Clients who **cannot** mask consistently must isolate for 10 days before returning to campus. They are not required to test, but symptoms must be resolved.

**7. Question: Who is excused from quarantine requirements?**

**Answer:** If your student or adult client is fully vaccinated, consistently wears a mask, and has no symptoms, they do not need to quarantine after an exposure. Students and clients must be tested immediately after the exposure, and again on day 5.

**8. Question: Why is universal masking imperative after an exposure?**

**Answer:** Masks are the most effective mitigation strategy for preventing the transmission of COVID-19. The virus that causes COVID-19 is primarily transmitted via airborne particles. Masks limit the spread of the virus in the air from infected persons and protect others exposed to these particles.

**9. Question: What if my student/client cannot wear a mask?**

**Answer:** Morgan Autism Center adheres to the masking exemptions outlined by the CDC regarding individuals with disabilities. However, in the event of a verified exposure, mask wearing becomes critical to contain the spread of the virus in school. Students/clients who cannot consistently wear a mask may qualify for a 5 day quarantine period.

**10. Question: What kind of mask should my student or adult client wear?**

**Answer:** Students and adult clients are encouraged to wear an N95, KN95, KF94 or a surgical mask with a fitted cloth mask over it. Morgan Autism Center will provide routine practice with masking; families are encouraged to continue masking efforts at home and in the community.