

DEPARTMENT POLICY

VI Department of Education's "COVID-19 Student Policy"

April 19, 2021



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



COVID-19 STUDENT POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy informs Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) Students, Parents and Guardians on the expectations in operations in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

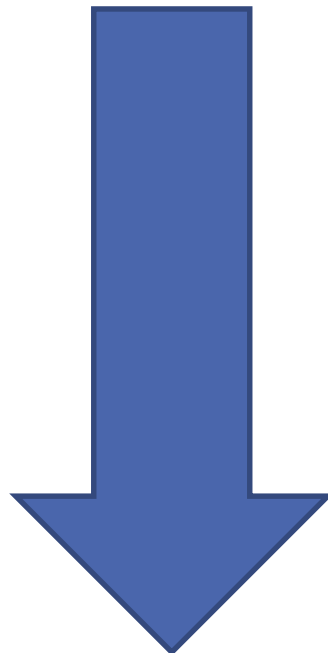
ABBREVIATIONS

VIDE: Virgin Islands Department of Education
VIDOH: Virgin Islands Department of Health
CDC: Centers for Disease Control

POLICY

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) continues to follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in conjunction with Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH) officials to reduce the further spread of the COVID-19 disease in our community. As students gradually return to in-person learning and begin to travel within and outside of the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands, we must remain abreast of the Travel Advisories and other guidelines set forth by the VIDOH. Most importantly, the safety of all faculty, staff and students at the VIDE is paramount. It is our shared responsibility to keep all stakeholders safe and healthy.

WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT SCHOOL? (See Logic Model Below)





Student shows symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19.*

Teacher/staff alerts school administration and/or school nurse. Teacher/staff member is required to maintain confidentiality throughout the process.

Student is escorted to isolation room and is properly supervised. The parent/guardian is contacted immediately. Arrangements are made for the student to be picked up.

NOTE: If multiple ill students must be placed in the same isolation room, ensure masks are used, and remain at least 6 feet apart.

Parent/guardian picks up student and seeks medical attention. Student is to remain quarantined until medical clearance is provided to return to school.

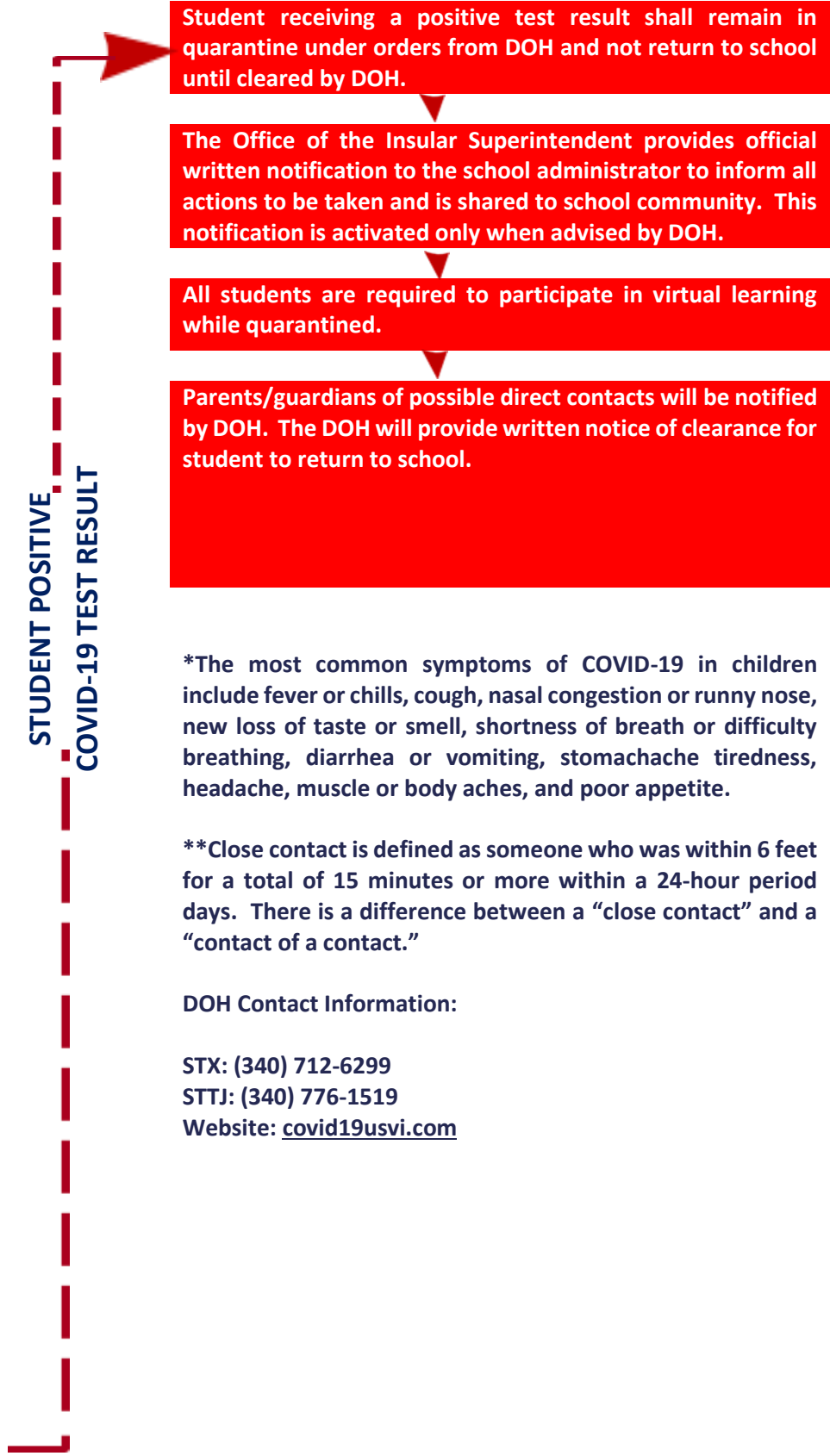
School administrator immediately creates a list of close contacts of the ill student and informs the Office of the Insular Superintendent.**

The school administrator is to ensure confidentiality of the identity of the student.

Custodians are to clean and disinfect the areas that the ill student occupied and use PPEs (including any protection needed for the cleaning and disinfection products) to reduce risk of possible infection.

After the incubation period of 4 days, the student must retest and produce a negative result to return to school. The negative result is provided to the school administrator.

IF A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE...



*The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite.

**Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period days. There is a difference between a “close contact” and a “contact of a contact.”

DOH Contact Information:
STX: (340) 712-6299
STTJ: (340) 776-1519
Website: covid19usvi.com



STUDENT TRAVEL

The following guidance and expectations are to be followed by public school students traveling during a COVID era.

The Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and VIDOH requires that (for the most up to date information please go to <https://doh.vi.gov/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/travelers>):

In-Territory Travel:

No test is required.

Out-of-Territory Travel:

Every U.S. Virgin Islander, aged five or older, leaving from and returning to the Territory, regardless of length of time, must take a COVID-19 test while away and receive a negative PCR or antigen test result within 5 days of return OR submit proof of a positive antibody test result within the previous 4-month period before returning to the territory.

All travelers are required to use the USVI Travel Screening Portal AND to submit a COVID-19 test result prior to return travel. USVI | COVID-19 Traveler Screening Tool (usvitraportal.com) Travelers should produce their original test result and travel certification received from the Portal upon arrival.

COVID-19 tests taken before departing the Territory OR results received outside the five-day window do not meet the requirements. Travelers are encouraged to plan testing dates to receive their results within the five-day window prior to travel back to the USVI to avoid unexpected travel delays due to refusal of airline boarding.

In addition to a negative COVID-19 test, ALL VIDE students who travel outside the Territory **must**, upon return, quarantine for 72 hours and take a second COVID-19 test at the end of such quarantine (on the fourth day). If the student receives a negative test result, the student may return to school and resume in-person instruction. In the event the student receives a positive test result, they must remain in quarantine under the orders of the VIDOH and not return to school until cleared. In the event the student has tested positive, or parents have additional questions, please contact the VIDOH at 340-712-6299 (STX) or 340-776-1519 (STT/STTJ) or visit www.covid19usvi.com.

All VIDE student travelers must submit their second COVID-19 test results to the school's principal via email for clearance to return to school.

Even if a student is fully vaccinated, the CDC recommends limited to no travel at this time. Staying at home helps to protect the student and others from COVID19.

All students are required to participate in their class instruction using the virtual learning option during the self-quarantine period. Parents, please be sure to inform your child's teacher and school administrator during your child's self-quarantine period.



VERSION CONTROL

Modification Date	Modification Reason	Modified Approved By
04/19/2021	<i>Updates to include updated testing upon return per VIDOH</i>	<i>Commissioner Berry-Benjamin</i>