

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) updated protocols to shorten the 14-day quarantine period for potential exposure to a COVID-19 infected individual. The following alternatives are acceptable options for reduced quarantine period:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring, OR,
- If testing is available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if an RT-PCR(*) diagnostic specimen is negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

**RT-PCR is a molecular test that detects COVID-19 genetic material. This is not the rapid antigen test, which is not acceptable to lower the quarantine period.*

In order to discontinue quarantine at the above times, the following criteria must also be met:

- No symptoms of COVID-19 have been identified during the entirety of quarantine up to the time when quarantine is discontinued.
- Daily symptom monitoring, mask use, and physical distancing continues through quarantine Day 14.
- If any symptoms develop, the person should immediately self-isolate and receive COVID-19 testing.
- A negative test collected prior to 5-7 days will *not* be used to determine modification of quarantine.

RT-PCR test results should be submitted (email or paper copy) to the school office upon return to modify the 14-day quarantine period as noted above.

In any/all of these circumstances, FPDS recommends adhering to the guidance of your primary care provider as he/she is most familiar with the circumstances of your medical situation.