

# Response to the Omicron Variant

The survey target of the “Active Epidemiological Investigation (Close Contact Tracing)” conducted by the Public Health Center has changed. From now on, targets of the survey will only be those who had close contact with an individual who contracted COVID-19 and live with the patient. Other close contacts (e.g. people who had lunch with or who are classmates of the patient) are no longer targets for this study.



Due to stricter enforcement of the Public Health Service “Active Epidemiological Investigation,” if even just 1 positive COVID-19 case is found, the class of that student will be temporarily suspended in order to prevent further infections.

※Based on the infection situation, this may result in temporary suspension of a class, a school year, or the entire school.

However, if a list can be made of students with “a possibility of infection” (e.g. students who ate food at the same table as the student who tested positive), the necessity of a temporary suspension of classes will be determined by national guidelines:

- ① Multiple students in the same class as the child who tests positive for COVID-19 also test positive.
- ② If only one student has tested positive for COVID-19, but multiple students have undiagnosed influenza-like symptoms.
- ③ If only one student has tested positive for COVID-19, but multiple other students have a possibility of being infected.



## Requests for parents and guardians

Since the Public Health Center will no longer conduct the close-contact survey for individuals not living with the positive patient, schools will ask students who test positive for COVID-19 regarding the date that symptoms appeared (or the date that a PCR test was taken if the patient has no symptoms.) Then, we will determine the necessity of any temporary suspensions based on information regarding contact between the patient and other students between 2 days before they tested positive, and when they first showed symptoms. We ask for your cooperation on the following points.

- **Please make sure to contact your child’s school if they test positive for COVID-19 or they are required to take a COVID-19 test.**

\*Please note that a “COVID-19 Test” refers to one ordered by a doctor or the public health center. This does not include private tests, or those for which health insurance does not apply.

- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19, you must also contact the parents or guardians of any friends that your child may have had contact with during extracurricular or out of school activities.**



Additionally, some schools may require a list of all students who had contact with the student who tests positive, so we ask for your cooperation with all requests from your child’s school.