

ISOLATION PROTOCOL (revised 08.22.20)

If any student, employee or volunteer is COVID19 positive, principals will immediately contact the Superintendent of Schools. While every situation is unique, the following steps will likely be implemented:

1. The student, employee (or volunteer) will be sent home and monitored for ongoing symptoms, as described above, quarantined for **10 days from the start of symptoms.**
2. The Superintendent will create a notification letter for the principal to send out parents and employees, as deemed necessary. Note: it is essential that the privacy of the effected student or employee be protected. Principals should not disclose the specific identity of the infected individual to parents or any employees who do not need to know.
3. The student or employee's classroom/work area will be thoroughly cleaned. Windows in the area will be opened to maximize airflow.
4. The principal will carefully monitor the health of students and teachers who are part of the infected individual's cohort (in the high school, the entire school population). Principals will contact the Superintendent of Schools for further instructions *before* initiating an entire Cohort or School Self-Quarantine.
5. If an entire Cohort or School is placed into self-quarantine, the Superintendent of Schools will create a notification letter for the principal with the goal of notifying families and employees of the cohort or school closure.
6. The principal will work with the Superintendent of Schools to decide if and when some or all of the cohort members or entire school can return to school.
7. Students will be allowed to complete and submit academic work via remote learning while self-quarantined.
8. Before a COVID19 positive student or employee is allowed back into the school, the physician or pediatrician should provide a statement that clears the student or employee to return to in-class instruction or to work. **Employees should not have a negative test to return to school. A clearance letter is sufficient, as the molecular tests can remain positive for quite some time even after the person is no longer infectious.**

EXPOSURE TO A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS COVID19 POSITIVE

Any student or faculty/staff member, **with a family member who has tested COVID19 positive**, will be sent home and required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last time of exposure to the positive person. **If you cannot isolate from that person while living with them, then you must quarantine for up to 24 days (the 10 days of symptoms plus the 14 days from the last day of exposure....EXCEPTION: if you get sick or test positive for COVID yourself, then you have a 10 day quarantine from the day you get sick or have a positive COVID test.)** This requirement *includes all students or members of the affected family member who are at the school*, regardless of whether or not they, themselves, have tested negative. The student(s) will be allowed to complete and submit academic work via remote learning.

FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID19

This area is very challenging. With the fall season upon us, allergies, seasonal infections, and the not-so-distant influenza season will have similar symptoms to COVID19. Therefore, the latest guidance from

OCS' advisory group, IDPH, and CDC is that if a student wakes up in the morning with a new or disconcerting symptom, the **parents will contact the pediatrician or primary care physician and discuss these symptoms with them**, especially if the **family has been traveling** in or out of state and have been exposed to someone who is suspected of or who has tested positive for COVID19. If a student or employee has symptoms, they will be sent home from school. That guidance **includes all members of the same family** who are in the school, as we know that the family unit is the highest source of exposure. A student or employee will need to **provide a clearance letter** in order to return to in-class instruction or work.

PENDING TESTS FOR COVID19

Students and employees who are sent home, or who are home and have pending COVID19 tests, must continue to self-quarantine until they have received the results of the COVID19 test and are cleared to return to school or work. This guidance is simply given to limit, to the best of our ability, the risk of spreading the virus for the good of all. **Pending tests should include all family members; so if you have one child out pending a COVID test, then all other children/parents in the school must also remain away from school.**

Any parent who chooses **NOT to get a COVID19 test** for themselves or for their child(ren), and are displaying symptoms of the virus or have been exposed, will be asked to self-quarantine for 10 days. A clearance letter must be provided in order to return to in-class instruction.