

January 3, 2022

In the past week, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) have updated their isolation and quarantine guidance. Dr. Locke, Shawnee Co Health Officer, made the decision to expand the Shawnee County health orders for the general public to include the schools. This maintains consistency in isolation and quarantine orders across the community and reaffirms the commitment to keeping students learning in school. Pottawatomie County Health Department will be following the new guidelines from KDHE as well.

The COVID-19 situation for schools is a fluid situation. As further guidance is received from the CDC and KDHE, we may need to pivot once again.

The most significant changes to the guidance adopted are:

***PREVIOUSLY TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED QUARANTINE EXEMPT.

***QUARANTINE EXEMPTION FOR THOSE WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED IS FOR 6 MONTHS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PFIZER OR MODERNA VACCINE SERIES, OR 2 MONTHS AFTER THE J&J. THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED A BOOSTER ARE FULLY EXEMPTED.

USD 321 continues to offer the Test to Learn/Test to Play program. This means staff and students, who are showing symptoms at school or considered a close contact to a positive case, have the opportunity to continue attending in-school learning and participate in school-related events with parental consent to daily testing for 5 days post exposure.

***FOR A PERSON WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID— Isolate for 5 days at home, + an additional 5 days wearing a mask. Students and staff may return to school after the 5 day home isolation if symptoms are improving, no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and able to wear a mask for the additional 5 days. If unable to wear a mask, students and staff must isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days.

***FOR A PERSON WHO IS A CLOSE CONTACT TO A POSITIVE PERSON—The quarantine period is a minimum of 5 days quarantine at home, + an additional 5 days wearing a mask. Students and staff may return to school after the 5 day home quarantine if no symptoms have developed and are able to wear a mask for the additional 5 days. If unable to wear a mask, students and staff must isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days.

Please see the attached document provided by Shawnee County Health Department for further information. [Interim Guidance for Isolation & Quarantine in Shawnee County Schools](#)