

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
11875 Sunset Drive, Suite 300
Olathe, Kansas 66061

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) has identified your child as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual. JCDHE made the identification through a public health investigation conducted in partnership with school/district personnel. JCDHE carefully considers all information when determining isolation and quarantine recommendations. Your child's proximity to or nature of their interaction with the positive individual was enough to put them at higher risk for contracting COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to recommend individuals exposed to COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days following their exposure and monitor for symptoms. Your child's exposure occurred on _____.

In December, the CDC released updated guidance that permits exposed persons to return to activity sooner, **provided they do not develop symptoms** in the 14 days after their exposure.

- Per the updated guidelines, students who **do not have symptoms** may receive a PCR¹ test no sooner than day 5 following their exposure, which would be _____. If the PCR test is negative AND no symptoms develop, your student should complete 7 days of quarantine and may return on _____. **In order to return on this date, you must provide your school documentation of negative PCR test that includes the student's name, DOB, test type, test date, and result.**

OR

- If your student does not receive a PCR test, or their lab results are delayed, your student should complete 10 days of quarantine and may return on _____.

A 14-day quarantine remains the gold standard to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Parents/guardians should exercise extreme caution during the entire 14-day period. Therefore, **if your student is tested but develops symptoms at any time following their test, they will be excluded for 10 days from their symptoms onset unless they receive an *additional* test with a negative result.** If your child develops symptoms, please notify your health care provider and JCDHE or school personnel.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, fever, cough, loss of smell and/or taste, chills, fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, muscle aches, chest pain, headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, sore throat, and runny nose.

¹PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction tests are molecular/viral tests that can be performed to detect coronavirus. These lab tests generally take several days before results are available. Most rapid tests are **not** PCR tests and are not acceptable for testing out of quarantine.

COVID-19 is circulating at high levels in our community and everyone should be wearing a mask in public, washing their hands with soap and water frequently, and maintaining six feet of physical distance to prevent transmission of the virus.

For current information and facts regarding COVID-19 in Kansas, refer to KDHE's COVID-19 webpage at: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/> or the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's website at: <https://www.jocogov.org/coronavirus-covid-19-update>

To schedule a COVID-19 test, please visit <https://www.jocogov.org/schedule-covid-19-test>.

Public health does not make quarantine recommendations lightly and thanks you for keeping your student home to break the cycle of COVID-19 transmission.

Sincerely,

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