

November 9, 2020

RE: Quarantine

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our country has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations over the past several weeks. Central Iowa is now following the same trend, and impacting our schools. Undoubtedly, some students will need to quarantine at home on occasion.

If your child has a COVID test due to symptoms, he/she CANNOT return to school after having tested with results still pending. In fact, the Iowa Department of Public Health recommends keeping household contacts at home (e.g. siblings) if someone in the home is waiting test results. If your child's test result is "positive" for COVID-19, please let us know.

Should your student need to quarantine due to exposure to someone who is "positive" with COVID-19, we suggest that you monitor your student's symptoms and consider having him/her tested for COVID-19 - particularly if he/she is showing symptoms. It is suggested that an asymptomatic individual waits 5-6 days before being tested following exposure to avoid the potential of a "false negative" result (due to too early testing). **Please know that a "negative" test result unfortunately does not release a student from quarantine.** Some families elect to have all family members tested - particularly when one or more family members develop symptoms. It has been recommended that some sort of isolation from others should begin (as much as possible) before seeking testing and before test results become available since delaying isolation until confirmation could miss an opportunity to reduce transmission to others.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease. Therefore, those in quarantine need to stay home unless one absolutely must leave, such as for essential medical appointments and separate from other household members and pets. Students should not participate in their normal extracurricular activities - (e.g. sports, dance, meeting friends, etc.). It is additionally recommended that all family members consider wearing a mask in the home particularly in shared spaces where appropriate distancing is not possible. It is not necessary to complete the "Absence of Student/Staff Due to Illness" Google Form (if we are aware that your child is remaining home due to "isolation" or "quarantine").

Thank you,
Mrs. Kinney
Patti Pyle (school nurse)