



# STRATFORD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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HOME OF THE ELKS AND LADY ELKS

January 4, 2022

Dear Elk Family,

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas Break and your New Year is off to a great start! As we welcome our students and staff back to school, I wanted to take this opportunity to update everyone on matters relating to our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As many of you are aware, there are numerous reports of increases in infection rates for COVID-19, specifically relating to the Omicron variant. I wish to remind you that you may always review the district updates under the ESSER tab at [www.stratfordisd.net](http://www.stratfordisd.net).

Additionally, many of you are aware that on December 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated their recommendations for quarantine and isolation of individuals relating to infection and exposure to COVID-19. The information provided by the CDC states:

Given what we currently know about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation for the public. People with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

Additionally, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is [exposed to COVID-19](#). For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Alternatively, if a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that an exposed person [wear a well-fitting mask](#) at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure. Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

Due to this new information being shared over the break, school districts across the state are working to review the new information and its impact on standing COVID-19 procedures and protocols. As of this update, school districts have not received any additional guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding changes to expectations or requirements for schools. We hope to receive additional guidance in the coming days. In the interim, Stratford ISD will continue with our current procedures and protocols, including a ten (10) day quarantine for staff and students who are positive for COVID-19 are under the COVID-19 tab on the Stratford ISD website.

Lastly, we will continue to review events and activities within the context of current COVID-19 infection rates for our district and area and will adjust requirements as necessary. Please know that as a district, we will continue to make decisions that protect our students and staff, while using a common sense approach.

We appreciate your continued support for the students, faculty, and staff of Stratford ISD.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Mike H. Dominguez*

Mike Dominguez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Stratford ISD