

Guidance for schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic 2021-2022 School Year.

Definitions:

- Isolation: separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not ill.
- Quarantine: separation and restriction of movement of people exposed to a contagious disease to evaluate for the emergence of sickness.
- TCHD: Trego County Health Department
- KDHE: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The school district will be implementing preventive infection control measures to strive to keep our students, staff and community healthy and to help keep our children in school by incorporating:

-Physically Distancing:

- School should strive to maintain physical distance between students within classrooms; however, the inability to implement physical distancing within schools should not prevent all students from learning in person. 6ft distancing will be implemented as much as possible to avoid being a “close contact” of a positive case.

-Hygiene Measures:

- Teach and reinforce hand-washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
- If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

-Medical Inquiries:

- If a parent tells the school that a student is ill, the school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the school will inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. The school may take the temperature of students, employees and visitors on school property randomly or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. If a person is obviously ill, the school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Defining a Case of COVID-19:

- A Person Under Investigation (PUI) is someone suspected of having COVID-19 disease because of symptoms or exposure. A person who is being tested for COVID-19 because they are suspected of having the disease is required to be in isolation until test results are received.
- A person is considered a case of COVID-19 disease if they have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by a diagnostic test (PCR or antigen)

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER EXCLUSION:

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment for suspicion or confirmation of Covid-19 infection, they may return to school if they satisfy the recommendations of KDHE or the TCHD. Currently, those guidelines are:

- Symptomatic UNTESTED: Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of SARS CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19, but experience symptoms, may return if the following conditions are met:
 - 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR
 - 72 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication AND there has been a significant improvement in symptoms OR
 - WHICHEVER IS LONGER.
- Symptomatic TESTED AND AWAITING RESULTS should be isolated at home until test results are received.

*POSITIVE RESULT:

Cases must remain in isolation until the following conditions are met:

- 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR
- 72 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication AND there has been a significant improvement in symptoms OR
- WHICHEVER IS LONGER.

*NEGATIVE RESULT:

- The individual may return to work or school, please follow general illness guidelines.

Defining a Close Contact:

You are considered a "close contact" if any of the following situations happened while you spent time with a person with COVID-19, even if they didn't have symptoms and will be required to quarantine:

- Were within 6 feet of the person for 10 consecutive minutes or more
- Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; kissed; contact with a dirty tissue; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).
- Live with the person or stayed overnight for at least one night in a house with the person.

-Close contacts will be instructed to quarantine for 10 full days from last exposure. If you have no symptoms during the 10 days, you can be released from the quarantine without a test on Day 11. KDHE recommends all exposed people should self-monitor for fourteen (14) days from exposure and contact healthcare provider if symptoms develop. Disease can still develop through day 14.

- Close contacts with evidence of previous infection supported by a positive PCR or antigen test may be exempt from quarantine after re-exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic. This is to be determined by the local health officer based on a possible 6-month period of presumed immunity. If an investigation was done documenting the date that symptoms resolved, or the date isolation measures were discontinued for asymptomatic patients, then the 6-month period can start from that end date. If those dates are not available, then the period will start from the date of the positive laboratory test. A serology or antibody test may not be substituted for a laboratory report of a viral diagnostic test. If the close contact becomes symptomatic, testing via an antigen test is preferred.

-Close contacts who are fully vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) with exposure to COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they remain asymptomatic. There is currently no time limit on how long fully vaccinated persons are considered immune.

School Response to the identification of a case:

- When confirmation that a student or staff member infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, the school and TCHD will be in communication to determine next steps.
- As soon as the school is aware of a student or employee that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 disease, the custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected.
- School staff will immediately begin compiling a list of close contacts.
- Guardians of students who have been identified as close contacts and any staff identified as close contacts should be informed immediately and given quarantine instructions and timeline.

Trego Community Schools in conjunction with the Trego County Health Department and Trego County Health Officer, have conducted a local plan to attempt to preserve the safety and functionality of our community as a whole with the goal of keeping our children in school for in-person learning when notified of an exposure and need for quarantine. This includes:

- Allowance of quarantined children to attend school/class while following stringent infection control measures. If your child is identified as a close contact and instructed to quarantine; the parent can choose to keep the child home during the duration of quarantine or attend school with the following measures:

-No school bus/public transportation.

-Must maintain 6ft distance.

-Mask must be worn while in school building.

-Frequent handwashing/ sanitizing.

-Lunch served in classroom.

-Recess will include 2 classes at a time.

-Monitoring for symptoms with school nurse twice daily. If symptoms arise, parent will be notified and encouraged to follow up with medical provider for testing.

-No sports practice/games.

-Must follow KDHE quarantine guidelines when school is dismissed for remainder of quarantine timeline.