



Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.jnpsd.org

Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day

December 4, 2020

9:47 am

JNPSD School Community:

Please continue to stay informed through all of our postings on JNP social media, JNP website, local media, and other communication outlets. All community updates, official documents, and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

Governor's Press Conference (APSRC Report)

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson hosted an additional COVID update today to discuss the recently released CDC quarantine guidelines.

"The Arkansas Department of Health has been working to implement this in Arkansas and to make it fit for our state and I wanted to go through this with you. So we will be substantially adopting the CDC recommendations in terms of quarantine. There are three reasons for this shortened quarantine time, and that is that the data shows that after the initial seven days there is a much lower percent chance, a very small percent chance, of becoming positive. Secondly, of the difficulties this puts on individuals, on families and communities and teachers and everyone else because of the length of that quarantine, and the third reason the CDC cited was that it is their hope that this will encourage compliance. That more people will be accepting of the quarantine requirements, will be more willing to identify those that have been exposed because it is a shortened time frame. So I appreciate the Department of Health working quickly on this," Governor Hutchinson said.

According to the new quarantine guidelines, individuals can do one of the following:

The safest is to quarantine at home the full 14 days;

Quarantine at home for 10-days and be released from quarantine but continue to monitor for symptoms and take precautions;

If you receive a negative PCR test results, you can be released from quarantine after 7 days but are asked to continue to monitor for symptoms and take precautions. Note the earliest day you can get a sendoff PCR test from the date of exposure is Day 5.

The Governor noted there will be some fine tuning to these guidelines for long-term care facilities and correctional facilities due to their particular situations.

Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key said the modification to the quarantine guidelines was very welcome news for schools around the state.

“When you look at our data and the reasons that schools have had to pivot to virtual learning it has primarily been because of the number of quarantined individuals, whether they be staff, faculty or students, it’s because of the number of quarantines and then the lack of sufficient substitutes. So this shortened time span will be very beneficial to our schools. It will help them establish shorter times that they will have to pivot, and every day that we can salvage and save for onsite learning for our students is going to be a better day of education for them. It’s also good to warn ourselves though to be cautious that this does not give us a reason to get lax in following the guidance in schools. We still need to follow the social distancing, we still need to follow the handwashing and the mask wearing in the schools. These things working together will help us continue to have a successful school year,” Secretary Key said.

1. Please update any contact information with your child’s school. An increasing number of messages are being sent through our school communication system that is linked to your contact information in eSchool. Phone calls, email, and text messaging are being used to send a variety of important messages.
2. A reminder has been sent to you soon via email and text message to complete a school survey for parents. The JNP Board commissioned the National School Climate Center to administer the electronic surveys to provide feedback on various issues. The board will see all reports from the survey. The deadline for completion is December 11.
3. COVID data updates are shared weekly as state health information is updated. School district case numbers were added to our data update and will continue to be part of these weekly updates to our community.

As new information becomes available, you will be advised.

Thank you for supporting JNPSD during this critical time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Duffie. Ed.D.
Superintendent