

RANDOLPH CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION
FEBRUARY 10, 2021

New Quarantine Guidance

The state Department of Health no longer requires quarantine or contact tracing **if** the students and teachers remain at least three feet apart, forward facing, and wear a mask at all times in the classroom. The changes in definition are **only for the school day while in the classroom** and apply to grades K-12. The changes do **not** apply to lunch, athletics, band, orchestra, choir or any other school setting where students may gather, nor does it apply to classrooms in which students have been allowed to remove their masks.

IDOH has also adjusted our approach to quarantine timing to reflect new options offered by the CDC. We continue to support the CDC's recommendation that the safest quarantine is 14 days, because only 0.1% of individuals will become symptomatic or positive after that length of time.

But we will allow two other options to end quarantine earlier than 14 days, provided that certain conditions are met.

OPTION 1: The first is to allow students and teachers to return to school after 10 days, provided that the student or teacher **never developed symptoms**, they are fastidious about wearing their mask at all times, and maintaining at least 3 feet social distance (6 feet while eating and not masked) upon their return to school, in addition to other stipulations.

OPTION 2: Another option is to allow a student or teacher to return to school after seven days if a PCR nasal swab on day 5, 6 or 7 or an antigen test upon return to school on day 8 is **negative**. In this option the student or teacher **must not have developed symptoms**. He or she must be fastidious about wearing his or her mask at all times, and maintaining at least 3 feet social distance (6 feet while eating and not masked) upon return to school, in addition to other stipulations.

If the COVID-19 exposure is in the student's own household then the shortened quarantine options may not apply.

Again, this presumes that the student or teacher never developed any symptoms and that they will wear their masks at all times when they return. Lunch should be eaten separately from others with 6 feet of distance maintained at all times while eating and unmasked.

Because of the nature of instruction and more frequent close contact in kindergarten through 2nd grade (K-2) classrooms the new quarantine guidelines options may not be as applicable. The reality is we have had fewer quarantine issues at the K-2 level.

For more detailed information click the link below.

https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Decision%20Trees_2-4.pdf