

USD 115 Exemption from School Guidelines
2021-2022
Updated 9/13/21

Due to the ever-changing circumstances, we must remain flexible and understand that what we do today may need to change. Currently, here are the guidelines:

- Close contact is someone who has been in contact with the positive person closer than 6 feet for more than 10 minutes.
 - The chance of spreading the virus is greater the longer an infected person or persons are close to someone. It also matters if the infected person is coughing, sneezing, shouting, singing, or doing anything else that produces respiratory droplets. Under these higher-risk situations, officials may want to consider a close contact with someone who has been within 6 feet of an infectious person or persons for 10 cumulative minutes or more in a 24 hour period. (KSDE Updated Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools)
- Close Contacts That Can Attend School:
 - Close contact but not showing symptoms

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of KDHE or the local public health officer. Currently those guidelines are:

UNTESTED

- Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of SARS CoV 2, 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
 - WHICHEVER IS LONGER.

TESTED AND AWAITING RESULTS

- Persons who are suspected of having COVID-19 disease and are awaiting test results should be isolated at home until test results are received. Negative test result required to return to school

POSITIVE RESULT, SYMPTOMATIC CASE

- Cases must remain in isolation until they have met the criteria for release from isolation set by KDHE or the local health department. Need note from County Health Officer or KDHE
 - Most cases are considered no longer infectious and can be released from isolation using this criteria:
 - 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
 - WHICHEVER IS LONGER.
- However, severely ill cases who require care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or cases who are severely immunocompromised (i.e. currently receiving chemotherapy or are on immune system suppressing medications) may be infectious longer and can be released from isolation using this criteria:
 - 20 days from onset of symptoms OR
 - 72 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication
 - AND there has been significant improvement in symptoms

- WHICHEVER IS LONGER.
- If you have questions, contact your local county health department, or KDHE at 877-427-7317.

POSITIVE RESULT, ASYMPTOMATIC CASE

- Cases must remain in isolation until they have met the criteria for release from isolation set by KDHE or the local health department. Need note from County Health Officer or KDHE
 - Ten (10) calendar days have passed since the date sample was collected AND
 - Symptoms have not developed.
 - If symptoms develop during the 10-day isolation period, then follow the above criteria for symptomatic cases with a new isolation period starting from the day symptoms started.

NEGATIVE RESULT, KNOWN EXPOSURE

- People who are identified as susceptible close contacts of a COVID-19 case or have travelled from a location on the KDHE Travel related Quarantine List must remain in quarantine until they have met the criteria for release from quarantine set by KDHE or the local health department.
 - People who have been exposed and are vaccinated and show no symptoms can wear a mask and continue to go to school. They can test out of mask wearing between days 3-5 with a negative test and no symptoms and be tested days 7-10.

NEGATIVE RESULT, NO KNOWN EXPOSURE

- People who have not been identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case and have not traveled from a location on the KDHE Travel-related Quarantine List may return to work/school after they are fever free for 24 hours without medication or per their physician recommendations.

Students will be excluded from school based on the following guidelines:

- Students and staff exhibiting fever, fever and one additional symptom, or two of the additional symptoms without clear explanation will be immediately sent home and excluded from school:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New cough
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Congestion/runny nose
 - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Unusual muscle or body aches
 - Unusual fatigue
- Students may return to school once they have satisfied the above guidelines. Parents are strongly advised to consult with their healthcare provider for further care.