

September 13, 2021

Thank you for your continued, diligent work to keep our school community safe.

The following is our current protocol on how a positive coronavirus case is being reported and handled presently in Kent City School District. The guidelines in the classroom are the same regardless of vaccination status due to required masks and social distancing of three feet in school.

People who have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus:

- **Vaccinated** – People who are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms of COVID-19 can remain in the community and not quarantine. They are required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth, social distance from others, perform good hand hygiene and monitor for symptoms for the full 14 days after their exposure. They need to stay at home if becoming symptomatic and get tested for COVID-19.
- **Unvaccinated** – Per the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and CDC guidelines, people who are exposed to the virus and are not vaccinated are mandated by the health department to quarantine for the first 7 days after their exposure. For example, if they are exposed to a person with COVID-19 on Sept. 1, they quarantine from Sept. 2 through Sept. 8th. If they test negative on day 5, 6, or 7 of their quarantine and they remain free of symptoms of COVID-19, they can return to the community (which includes school) on day 8, Sept. 9th. They continue to monitor for symptoms through day 14. If symptoms occur, the person needs to stay home and get tested again for COVID-19. They cannot return to sport related activities for the full 14 days of quarantine.

People who test positive:

People who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate in their home away from other people they live with so they do not spread the virus. They are required to do this for 10 days with day 1 being the first day of symptoms or the first day they test positive without symptoms.

Example: A person has one or more symptoms of COVID on September 1st and then tests positive on September 2nd. The person isolates his or herself from September 1st through September 10th. If on September 11th, the person's symptoms are gone or they have very minimal symptoms and feel healthy enough to make it through the day of planned activities, they can return to the community. There is no need to retest for COVID-19 after the 10 day quarantine. If symptoms remain, the person is encouraged to stay home and contact his or her physician and their local health department for guidance.

Notification in school of positive cases and quarantines:

All people have the right to privacy and are protected under the HIPPA and FERPA laws. Strict confidentiality will be maintained as each case of COVID-19 and related quarantines occur. Assigned people within the district will assist the health department with each contact tracing when a staff member or a student tests positive for COVID-19. The following guidelines will be followed:

1. A person is contagious for approximately 48 hours before they develop symptoms and when symptoms are occurring.
2. People wearing a mask in a classroom are not exposed if social distancing is maintained.
3. Areas where masks need to be removed, such as the cafeteria, will be monitored. Seating charts will be established and students will be instructed to sit in the same seat every day.
4. Cameras installed in the school buildings can be used to note who has been exposed to a person who is contagious.
5. People who are exposed will be privately notified by designated school staff. Parents of students who are minors will be notified privately as well.
6. People who test positive for the virus and were contagious and/or symptomatic at school will be counted on the COVID-19 Dashboard.
7. The COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated when the school administrators are notified of a positive case. People in the school community can refer to the dashboard to be aware of new cases of COVID-19. The dashboard is on the Kent City School District home page.

Prevention is the Best Protection

Please keep in mind that once a positive case is diagnosed, the exposure may have already occurred. **This is why PREVENTION is so important.** Being vigilant with wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth, social distancing, and proper, frequent hand hygiene is imperative. Being vaccinated is also a key component to preventing the spread of the virus and ending the pandemic. It provides a substantial amount of immunity from the virus and protects others around us. Research has proven that we can still be carriers of the virus if we are vaccinated.

All of these rules and processes change frequently as the pandemic continues and advances. These policies are based on research and the ODH guidelines. We are all learning and growing as we navigate this pandemic. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic September 22, 2021

Akron Children's Hospital nurses will be in the district on September 22nd to vaccinate interested students and staff with the COVID-19 Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine. A completed consent form is required. Please refer the Kent City School District Health/Nursing webpage for further details.

Kent City Health Department Protocol for Quarantine, Isolation, and Text Monitoring

- Kent City Health Department is sending letters to those in Isolation
- Kent City Health Department is sending letters to those in Quarantine
- PCG (ODH company) is enrolling those in K-12 schools into a text monitoring system (Quarantined person will receive 4 texts in the evening hours to log their symptoms)
- PCG is sending up to 4 texts for symptom checks if the parents' consent to receive them. If they do not consent for OCTS text message symptoms checks then they will not get any. I believe if the parent answers the first text then the other three will not be sent.
Note: Asymptomatic students who were exposed outside of the classroom can test on day 5 and if negative can return on day 7. They must monitor for a total of 14 days. If they become symptomatic they should stay home and retest.
- PCG will follow up with a phone call if they do not respond in two days via text messages
- PCG contacts individuals if they become symptomatic

This is all subject to change as the needs of the community change and resources are available.

More information can be found at the following websites:

Kent City Health Department <http://kentohio.org/153/Health>

Ohio Department of Health <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>