



January 18, 2022

Dear Viking families,

As you are aware, the current surge in the omicron variant is creating immense pressure on our schools and staff members as we work to keep classrooms staffed and in-person learning possible.

To help alleviate some of the pressures on our schools, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), along with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), support schools implementing a 30-day temporary suspension on all contact tracing activities.

What does this mean for you as parents and guardians? Beginning Tuesday, Jan.18, our district will no longer notify families whose child may have been in contact, through classroom or extracurricular settings, with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is safe to assume that with this variant, widespread transmission as occurred in all public spaces. Due to a shortage of tests, we will no longer be able to offer the Test to Stay (TTS) or Test to Know (TTK) programs. Testing at school will be limited to testing for students and staff that develop symptoms during the school day if testing supplies are available. Please help us by monitoring your children for signs of Covid-19 and keeping them at home if they are sick.

If you believe your child has been exposed to a positive case either at school or elsewhere, please consider keeping your child home for five days after the exposure. After that, your child may resume normal activities but should wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors and outdoors for an additional five days. Have your child tested five days after the exposure or immediately if they become symptomatic. Continue to monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days after the exposure.

If your child is symptomatic, have him or her tested with a diagnostic test if available. Please do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they test positive. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 should, stay home for at least five days, be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and have symptoms resolving before coming back to school. After that, you child may resume normal activities but should wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors and outdoors for an additional five days. Please notify your school if you child tests positive.

If you have any questions regarding this change to school contact tracing protocols, please contact me at 620-421-5950 or lrav@vikiingnet.net. To learn more about this guidance change visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/283/Education-K-12>.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this challenging time for our school and communities. We will continue to keep you informed as guidance changes are announced. It's ALWAYS a great day to be a Viking!

Sincerely,

Lori A. Ray

Lori Ray, Superintendent of Schools

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