



CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 7, 2022

Dear Families and Staff of Cumberland County Public Schools,

We are reaching out to share an update regarding our COVID-19 approaches to contact tracing and quarantines.

Recently, the Virginia Department of Health announced an ending to contact tracing in most instances, since the Omicron variant "is now the most common COVID-19 variant and is spreading so quickly, it is not possible or fruitful to track every case."

Cumberland County Public Schools will shift away from routine contact tracing unless there are outbreaks or cases in high-risk settings. We will continue to focus on prevention and mitigation strategies, and we will continue working in conjunction with recommendations from the Piedmont Health District.

We realize the burden that students, families, and staff have faced related to the quarantining of close contacts. Many of our students have been quarantined multiple times, therefore impacting instructional time, and we continue to see very few school-transmitted COVID-19 cases among students and staff.

We appreciate our community's patience as this decision is just one more change encountered during this pandemic.

In summary, we will use the following guidelines as we encounter COVID-19 cases in our school community:

- We will no longer contact trace for individual COVID-19 cases.
- Students who are currently at home as a result of being identified as a close contact at school may return to school if they are asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. If your child has been identified as being exposed to an outbreak, school administration will be in contact with you to discuss next steps.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must continue to isolate themselves at home for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms or their positive test result, whichever occurs first. Symptoms and vaccination status will help determine if household contacts of persons that test positive for COVID-19 are able to return to school. Please contact school administration regarding this.
- Staff members who test positive must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive test result, whichever occurs first.
- Families and staff should continue the use of the health-screening checklist located on our school webpage and continue to report any positive exposures to the school administration.
- CuCPS will communicate the number of positive cases to families and staff through our school alert system.
- Staff members will continue to encourage physical distancing, clean buildings daily, promote good hygiene, and check ventilations systems for proper functionality.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Chip Jones, Ed.D., Superintendent
Cumberland County Public Schools