

COVID Policy

COVID is a respiratory illness that is spread through respiratory droplets. Current practice, in accordance with the CDC and health department, is a 5-day quarantine period. A person may resume normal activities on day 6. COVID is also a reportable communicable disease that requires the school to make a report within 24 hours of notification. This follows guidelines of communicable disease reporting already in place with other diseases. The health department no longer requires schools to contact trace, notify persons of close contact or display current COVID numbers.

Shepherd Public Schools has outlined the following practices to follow in accordance with the recommendations from the CDC and health department:

1. Masking will remain optional for staff and students.
2. Staff and Students must notify the school in which they attend of a positive COVID test. They will be required to isolate for 5 days after symptom onset, or 5 days from a positive test date if asymptomatic. Staff and students may return on the 6th day if symptoms are improving, and they have been fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medicines. The count of the 5 days begins the day following the symptom onset or positive test date. Persons returning to school after quarantine may choose to wear a mask for an additional 5 days, but are not required.
 - a. Example A: A student tests positive on Tuesday. They may return to school the following Monday as the fifth day would fall on Sunday.
 - b. Example B: A student started with symptoms on Thursday and tested positive on Friday. They may return to school on the following Wednesday.
3. Notification of a positive COVID case will be sent out per building. For example, if a 7th grade student tests positive for COVID, the entire Middle School will receive notification of the positive case. An automated phone call, text and email will be sent out via the contact information previously provided to the school.
4. If you receive a notification, your student needs to be monitored for the symptoms of COVID including:
 - a. Fever (100.4 or greater) or chills
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Fatigue
 - e. Muscle or body aches
 - f. Headache
 - g. New loss of taste or smell

- h. Sore Throat
 - i. Congestion or Runny Nose
 - j. Nausea or vomiting
 - k. Diarrhea
5. Any future outbreak or situations deemed to be of a critical or emergency nature will fall under the overall guidance and counsel of the Shepherd Public Schools COVID-19 Response Team, with ultimate decisions coming from the superintendent.