




## Communicating about COVID-19 Positive Cases & Contacts in Schools

	 <b>Positive students or staff</b>	 <b>Contacts to a positive</b>	 <b>Positive relative of a student or staff member</b>
<b>Local health department (LHD)</b>	Can provide names of positive students and staff to a school.*	The LHD cannot provide a list of contacts to a school. The contact or contact's parent or guardian may inform the school of the contact's status. ‡	The name of a relative of a student or staff member who is positive cannot be shared between the LHD and school (and vice versa). ‡
<b>Schools</b>	Can provide names of positive students and staff to a local health department. †	Only <u>mandated infectious disease reporters</u> can release contact names without the consent of a contact or a contact's parent/guardian. ††§	

## References

\* Under the public safety exception of [K.S.A. 65-118](#) and the [HIPAA Privacy Rule](#), the communication is only to the extent the disclosure is necessary to protect the public health. Please note that LHDs are not required to do so, but they are permitted to do so under the law.

† Because school nurses, teachers and school administrators (per [KSA 65-118](#)) are on the list of mandated reporters for infectious diseases ([click here for full list of mandated reporters for infectious diseases](#)), they can communicate information on positive cases and contacts to public health.

‡ For more information, see [HB 2016](#), the “Governmental Response to 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic” law, which addresses COVID-19 contact tracing.

§ Mandated infectious disease reporters are not considered third party entities per K.A.R. 28-1-40 page 1018 (or page 12 of 20) in the 8/6/20 [Kansas Register](#).