

Viking Family--On Sunday evening information was sent out regarding the fact that USD 330 Mission Valley was notified of a high school student who tested positive for COVID-19 and was present at school on Friday. The intent of this letter is to provide information that will hopefully help with understanding of the process that happens when we receive such information.

When we receive information such as this we immediately begin gathering information to identify a list of people (contact tracing) who are or suspected to be close contacts, as well as, contact the Wabaunsee County Health Department for assistance in making an informed decision on what steps the district should take. Decisions made by the school district and local health department are done so under recommendations and guidance from the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. As a school district we do not have the authority to “quarantine” a student or staff member, however, we do have the authority to exclude a student or staff member until such a time that it can be proven safe for them to return.

We provide assistance to the health departments by conducting contact tracing to assist with identifying students and/or staff who are potential close contacts. Close Contact as defined by the Back to School Playbook: *An employee or student is considered a close contact of a case if they were within 6 ft. of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, for 10 minutes or more; or if they had exposure to secretions (examples include but not limited to being coughed or sneezed on).* At this point whether a person has a mask on or not does not matter when determining a close contact.

The names and contact information of the identified students and/or staff are then provided to the health department for them to make the determination on whether or not they should or should not be quarantined. Please understand that student/staff identifiable information is not public information and will not be released by the district. Individuals identified by the health department to be quarantined may return to school/work at the date designated by the local health department. The length of quarantine for individuals who do not live in the same household is 14 days from the date of the last contact with the positive person. The length of quarantine for individuals who reside in the same household as the positive case is determined by how long the positive case remains in isolation. Quarantine for a person living in the same household will not start until the isolation period is over, which is a minimum of 10 days in isolation. Students and staff who have been quarantined may return to school/work when they have met the criteria of the local health department. If the health department determines that the individual is not a close contact then they are eligible to return to school/work once they have received clearance.

In regards to the impact to daily operations of the school that is also discussed with the health department during our communications with them. If the health department feels it is safe to have school and activities then the district will make the decision on whether to have school and continue with activities. If the health department does not feel that it is safe to resume school and/or activities then the district will follow the health department's decision and close school or

cancel activities until such a time determined otherwise by the health department. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis using all the information that we have at the time.

As with most things in life, there is no guarantee of being 100% protected against COVID-19 or any other illness, however, the sanitizing & disinfecting procedures that USD 330 Mission Valley are using have been highly recommended as what is needed to help keep students, staff, and visitors safe when at our facilities. Our procedures have been given to the local health department and have received their support. Additional disinfecting/sanitizing attention is given each day to high contact areas around the school and all classrooms, restrooms, and locker rooms are thoroughly cleaned each night.

The health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors are a priority, while at the same time, working to provide an education to all students in a manner that is effective under the current conditions. A link for the Back to School Playbook can be found at [www.mv330.org](http://www.mv330.org) or by clicking [USD 330 Back To School Playbook](#). If you have any questions related to health and safety at Mission Valley please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support of Mission Valley Schools!!! GO VIKINGS!!!

### **COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Wabaunsee County Health Department  
<http://ks-wabaunsee.manatron.com/COVID19/tabid/14090/Default.aspx>  
785-765-2425

Shawnee County Health Department  
<https://www.snco.us/hd/coronavirus.asp>  
785-251-4848

Osage County Health Department  
<http://osageco.org/main/covid-19-info>  
785-828-3117

Lyon County Health Department  
<https://www.publichealth.lyoncounty.org/covid-19/>  
620-208-3741