

Providing a safe and secure learning environment for staff and students is the top priority of the Shelby/Rising City Public Schools. We fully believe that students learn best when they are able to be in the classroom with their teachers and around their peers while being offered a full range of extra-curricular activity options.

The current Covid Pandemic has provided challenges during the past several months and is causing small schools additional concerns to provide continued in-person instruction. In September, Nebraska Directed Health Measures (DHMs) identified school employees as “essential employees.” This designation allows a teacher to stay in the classroom after a close COVID-19 contact instead of quarantining, as long as the teacher takes certain precautions.

A close contact means coming within 6 feet, unmasked — for at least 15 minutes — of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, had a fever of 100.4 degrees or above, or had sudden onset of a cough or sudden onset of shortness of breath.

Under the DHM, the teacher could remain on the job as long as they have no symptoms, wear a face covering or mask and practice social distancing, as well as self-monitoring twice daily for fever and other symptoms.

So far, we have been able to quarantine staff members who have had a “close contact.” As Covid cases rise, our pool of available substitute teachers may decrease. This decrease will force us to more closely follow the DHM allowing for “essential employees.”

Please be assured that we consult with Four Corners Health Department on all known Covid cases or “close contacts” that we encounter and are doing the same thing that other businesses that employ “essential employees” do to ensure the safety of their employees and customers.

As always, please contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Doug Kluth, Superintendent
Shelby/Rising City Public Schools