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Kankakee County Health Department's Methods for Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine for Kankakee County Schools

Date: 8/17/2021

*Subject to change based on updated data and guidance. The CDC Covid Data Tracker lists Kankakee County as an area of "High Transmission".

1. Universal masking is required by the IDPH and ISBE.
2. **Covid-19 positive cases** will follow isolation periods as normal. Isolation will be required for 10 days after symptom onset or 10 days after the test date when asymptomatic. If someone who is asymptomatic tested positive and later becomes symptomatic, then day "0" starts over again on the day of symptom onset.
3. KCHD will follow the CDC guidance that when all mitigation efforts are followed properly, **student contacts 3 feet apart with everyone wearing properly fitted masks**, that students at adjacent desks (3 feet apart) will not be considered a close contact, and do not have to quarantine. We want to reiterate; this option is only for situations where mitigation efforts including 3 feet distancing and masking are followed 100%. Testing and symptom monitoring is still recommended for those sitting adjacent to a positive case. They need to be hypervigilant for symptoms and immediately isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.
4. **Those who are fully vaccinated** (2 weeks past their 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna, or 2 weeks past one dose of Johnson and Johnson) will not be considered a close contact, and do not need to quarantine. Testing is recommended for those fully vaccinated after an exposure. They need to be hypervigilant for symptoms and immediately isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.
5. **For all other situations**, when students have been within 3 feet for more than 15 minutes (or within 6 feet without masks), for situations where distancing could not be maintained (bus, cafeteria, etc.), for students not able to wear a mask due to medical reasons; a 10 day quarantine will apply. 10 days past the last exposure, with exposure day being day "0".
6. KCHD will work with cases to identify the situation and level of quarantine on a case-by case basis.
7. KCHD will ask schools to help identify close contacts that occurred within the school. KCHD asks schools to assist in determining close contacts within the school and contacting parents. KCHD is ultimately responsible for the case and the process to report to IDPH.
8. It was asked if a school can hire their own contact tracer. Yes, but a school contact tracer would still need to partner with KCHD regarding cases and outbreaks. KCHD is ultimately responsible for contact tracing for all of Kankakee County. A school contact tracer would be a welcomed asset to identifying close contacts, contacting parents, monitoring the health of students remaining at school, and covid-19 testing.
9. Release letters: A covid-19 positive patient or identified close contact (or their guardian) will be asked to complete daily health assessments through our contact tracing program. These assessments can be completed through phone, email, or by text. If they complete the health assessments, on the last day of isolation or quarantine they will be asked "Do you want a release letter to return to school or work?", and they can print or save their release letter. If they did not complete the health assessments through phone, email, or text, they will need to obtain a release letter from their health care provider.

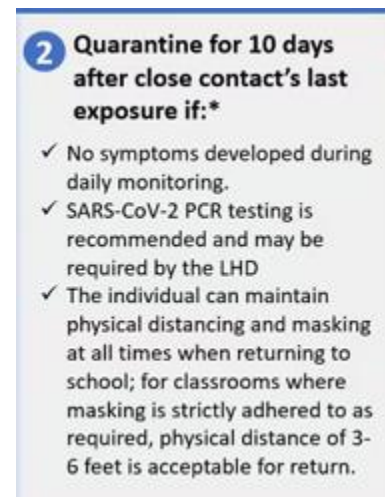
10. Call 815-802-9349 to report cases, or to follow up with someone at KCHD regarding school cases. This is a confidential password protected voicemail where you can leave a message and a contact tracer will call back as soon as possible. All tracers will be working these cases. Please do not call a specific contact tracer unless directed to do so by the tracer.

UPDATE: 8/26/21

11. Home Covid-19 tests are not acceptable for any required testing (including required staff testing). Home tests are not considered a valid source of test results.
12. Final decisions on quarantine and isolation lengths will be determined by the KCHD contact tracing team. **Currently, "Test to Stay" is not currently an option for quarantine.**
13. If the only exposure occurs when outdoors, this will not be considered a close contact in most situations. KCHD recommends the individuals are notified of an exposure and asked to self-monitor symptoms. Outdoor exposure could be considered an exposure in unique situations (someone is severely ill, coughing).

UPDATE 9/20/21

14. **Quarantine length is changed to 10 days.** The individual must be symptom-free upon return. Testing before returning to school on day 8 or 9 is highly recommended but not required. Schools may choose to exclude for 14 days if they prefer this option. This applies to both students and staff.
15. **All household exposures remain at 14 days quarantine. A household exposure is a high-risk exposure.**
16. According to the executive order 2021-24, teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting do not qualify for the 3 feet exposure rule, therefore the default CDC definition of a close contact would apply: "the CDC defines close contacts a someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period in the K-12 indoor classroom setting. In summary, the 3 feet rule applies to students, 6 feet for staff.
17. 10-day reduced quarantine requires schools to adhere to strict masking, and vigilance of social distancing of those in school on day 11, 12, 13 and 14. (IDPH)



2 Quarantine for 10 days after close contact's last exposure if:*

- ✓ No symptoms developed during daily monitoring.
- ✓ SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is recommended and may be required by the LHD
- ✓ The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to as required, physical distance of 3-6 feet is acceptable for return.