

**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
KANSAS  
**Health & Environment**

January 4, 2022

Dear Superintendents, School Board Members, and Health Service Coordinators:

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated recommendations regarding the isolation and quarantine measures for COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> Per this media statement, CDC shortened the recommended isolation period for infected individuals to five days if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), followed by five days of wearing a mask when around others. Based on these updates, JCDHE is working to finalize guidance for the prevention and control of COVID-19 for K-12 schools for the remainder of the 2021-2022 academic year. We recognize that in-person learning is best and remain committed to working with you to promote and maintain safe and healthy school environments.

The updated JCDHE guidance includes a multi-layered approach with three primary evidence-based mitigation strategies: (1) promote vaccination and continued masking wherever possible; (2) exclude persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection for at least five days from symptom onset or positive test; and (3) require mask wearing among those with COVID-19 for five days following their isolation period. JCDHE will support schools in implementing the shortened isolation protocol.

Any person, including student, faculty or staff member, diagnosed with COVID-19 infection must be excluded from school for the appropriate period of isolation. Per K.S.A. 65-122, school principals and other persons in charge have a duty to exclude persons affected with a disease suspected of being infectious or contagious.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, CDC shortened the recommended quarantine period for susceptible individuals to five days, followed by strict mask use for an additional five days. However, recognizing that intensive contact tracing within schools is no longer feasible given the current situation, priority should be given to exclusion of infected individuals. JCDHE recommends that individuals known to be a close contact of a COVID-19 case wear a well-fitting mask for ten days after their exposure, including at all times if they remain in school and are around others. Testing on day five following exposure is strongly encouraged. Where available, close contacts are also encouraged to participate in their district's test-to-stay program. JCDHE recommendations are summarized in the attached table.

Despite the continued challenges of this pandemic, we look forward to the day that these mitigation measures are no longer necessary and, as parents ourselves, understand the value of a healthy learning environment for our students. Students, families, school districts and the community must continue to work together to prevent transmission within our schools and protect the health of the community.

Sincerely,



Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (27 December 2021) CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

<sup>2</sup> Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-122 (1976). [https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065\\_001\\_0022.html](https://www.ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch65/065_001_0022.html)



# JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS

## Health & Environment

### Attachment: Summary of JCHDE Recommendations for K-12 Schools

#### If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19...

##### Regardless of vaccination status, individuals should:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If symptoms have resolved or are improving after 5 days, students and staff can return to school and school related activities.
- Once returned, individuals should wear a mask for an additional 5 days  
*\*Individuals with COVID-19 should also remain separated in instances where they cannot mask (e.g., mealtimes)*

#### If an individual was exposed to someone with COVID-19...

##### If the individual:

Has been boosted

**OR**

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

**OR**

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- Stay home and test if symptoms develop.

##### If the individual:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than 6 months ago and are NOT boosted

**OR**

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are NOT boosted

**OR**

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After 5 days, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If the individual is unable to quarantine, then they must wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- Stay home and test if symptoms develop.