

Memo Jan. 20, 2022

Health Department

\* The LHD has stopped contact tracing following KDHE guidelines. Based on KDHE + KSDE memo dated 1.17.22, schools can opt to stop contact tracing starting 1.18.22 for a 30-day period, after which the two Departments will reassess the situation. Please note that schools have the option to continue doing things as they are (i.e. contact trace and implement modified quarantine for in-school exposures, quarantine household exposures) or implement the new guidelines as they best see fit.

Decisions:

- Schools will stop contact tracing and thereby put an end to 'modified quarantine' for said period.
- Schools will continue to focus on cases (symptomatic positives, asymptomatic positives, symptomatic clinical diagnosis). School Nurses continue to identify cases and are authorized to issue orders for isolation and release for cases (based on the new shortened isolation recommendations adopted by KDHE).
- School nurses will accept results of home COVID 19 tests if they are positive, ask the child to isolate and recommend confirmatory testing. However, no isolation/release orders will be issued and no disease investigation will be done. If a home test is negative but a child is symptomatic, school nurses are authorized to make a clinical diagnosis and ask the child to isolate or get a confirmatory test.
- Parents have greater responsibility from here on:
  - o Make themselves familiar with expectations
  - o Keep track on school websites and stay vigilant on whether their child was potentially exposed
  - o Follow the appropriate quarantine guidelines for kids who are potentially exposed
  - o Track their child for symptoms and get child tested when needed
  - o Follow isolation guidelines when their child tests positive/is symptomatic
  - o Parents need to notify the school if child is still sick (continues to have fever unless taking fever-reducing meds, other symptoms not improving) after the requisite 5 days of isolation. Continue to isolate the child at home for another five days.
  - o Inform the school if the child was tested/diagnosed outside of school. Parents can obtain isolation release orders from their PCP (where the child was tested).
  - o Inform the school if the child was potentially exposed to a case in their household. Follow quarantine guidelines appropriate to the child's situation after a household exposure
- Schools have greater role in educating parents:
  - o Schools will send out blanket notifications regarding changes being adopted. Schools will also share the guidelines for quarantine/isolation for K-12 students.
  - o Schools will maintain color-coded status for classrooms/other activities on their websites so that parents can be vigilant about potential exposures for their child
  - o Schools will ask parents to follow isolation guidelines when child is sick. Ask parents to notify school if child is still sick even after 5 days of isolation (continues to have fever

unless taking fever-reducing meds, other symptoms not improving). Schools will continue to isolate the child at home for another five days in such cases. Schools will share isolation and quarantine handouts with parents as they deem necessary.

- Schools will ask parents to follow the appropriate quarantine guidelines if child is exposed in the household. Schools will notify parents that they have a responsibility to exclude household exposures if they refuse to follow quarantine guidelines. Schools will continue to use their resources (as needed) to track siblings of cases as they are potential household exposures.
- LHD responsibility:
  - LHD will continue to investigate the cases that the schools report
  - LHD will not be doing contact tracing
  - LHD will monitor the situation with schools and take action to quarantine entire classrooms as the need arises, ie. When clusters of high positivity are identified. These clusters will look different for different levels of education/types of classrooms. LHD will establish internal benchmarks based on research recommendations.
  - LHD will update isolation and quarantine guidelines and share with schools so that schools can share this material with parents