

Reminder: Masks will be required in USD 320 schools when students return from the Winter Break on January 4.

The USD 320 Test Center will be open Monday morning at 7:30 a.m.

CDC changes in the Length of Quarantines and Isolations: At this time, the newly announced CDC guidance does NOT apply to K-12 schools. It applies to Health Care workers and those in the “General Population.” It does not apply to other “congregate settings” the category in which K-12 schools are included. When the CDC guidance is applied to schools and adopted by the KDHE and County Health Department, USD 320 will adopt and follow the guidance. We have been holding off sending this summary of changes in hopes that the new guidance could be part of the changes in our Covid Mitigation procedures; however, as of this writing, the new quarantine/isolation guidance is not approved for schools.

Below are the changes in USD 320 covid mitigation procedures that will be implemented as of Monday, January 4.

Change #1: Family and Household Close Contacts: It had been the practice of USD 320 to allow the students in families and households where there is a positive case to attend school using the Test-to-Stay program.

Unfortunately, many of the close contact family & household members are testing positive before the end of the testing period. Therefore, with the start of the second semester, the Family & Household Quarantine model will be implemented. In this model a positive case in a family or household means the students or employees in the family or household will quarantine at home.

The students or employees will be eligible to return to school through the Test-to-Stay program when the positive case in their family or household has reached the end of the isolation period. However, according to the current guidance, if the close contact members are fully vaccinated they may go to school and work as long as they are symptom free.

Change #2: Contact Tracing: With the start of the second semester, ***the Wamego Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing close contact students in the Middle and High School.*** The current practice of notifying parents that a positive case has been identified in their children’s school will continue. Parents will be asked to monitor their child for the Covid-19 symptoms. If a student becomes ill they should stay home. The USD 320 Covid Testing Center is available to provide the necessary testing to determine if students or staff are ill with Covid.

As long as a middle school or high school student is symptom-free they will be able to attend school and take part in activities. Those who test positive will be quarantined based on the current CDC guidelines. The names of those testing positive will be shared with the Pottawattamie County Health Department as is required by KDHE mandate; however, whatever

contact tracing is done after the school submits the names will be completed by the County Health Department or the KDHE.

Those who test positive will be asked to contact their friends, close classmates, and colleagues to let them know they have tested positive so they can get tested if they wish.

At this point contact tracing of students in grades PreK-5 will continue. The Test-to-Stay program is available to those who wish to take part in it rather than quarantining at home (unless the close contact is with a family or household member; see #1 above).