

New Covid 19 Quarantine, Isolation & Testing Guidelines

The KDHE has released new COVID guidelines and protocols for the K-12 school testing program. The major points of change are listed below. The full document can be obtained here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x7s2YQORJ5KzmA3HsT3-A_4W4Tq15hzn/view?usp=sharing Please keep in mind that each school district can adapt policies and procedures within the guideline to best fit their district's specific needs.

Due to increased numbers of Covid-19 cases & the accompanying testing needs, Wamego USD 320 is no longer be able to offer "test to stay". The sheer volume of testing required to maintain the service has become unsustainable. Therefore, USD 320 will be transitioning to a **test-to-know** model until further notice. We hope to bring back the test-to-stay service once this current covid surge has passed.

The USD 320 testing center will continue to be open Monday through Friday on days school is in session for USD 320 students & staff members who need testing.

If you are currently in isolation or on quarantine and have been given dates of return, continue to follow those dates unless you are contacted by a school nurse or test center nurse. If you are currently in the test-to-stay program, your testing will be completed as planned. NO NEW test-to-stay participants will be added as of 1.14.22

Changes in Covid Mitigation guidance; effective of 1.14.22:

Close Contact Definition for K-12 school settings:

- Applicable to everyone. A close contact applies to anyone who is within 6 feet of a positive person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.
- In the indoor classroom setting or structured outdoor setting for K-12 where masking use can be observed.
- The close contact definition EXCLUDES students who were between 3-6 feet of a person with COVID-19 if BOTH the person with COVID-19 AND the close contact correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
- The exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Quarantine Guidelines

- Persons who are age 18 and older identified as a close contact with full vaccination status AND boosted do not need to quarantine, as long as they are symptom free. USD 320 strongly recommends rapid antigen testing between days 5-7 post exposure, or as soon as illness symptoms begin.
- Children 5 years through 17 years of age who have completed the primary vaccine series (2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and greater or equal to 2 weeks post second shot) do not need to be quarantined, as long as they are symptom free. USD 320 strongly recommends rapid antigen testing between days 5-7 post exposure.
- Persons who have had a lab confirmed PCR or antigen COVID test within the last 90 days do not need to quarantine. Testing is not recommended unless symptoms develop. **Results from at-home testing kits will not be considered. Tests must be conducted by a “disinterested third party.” They can be from your health care provider, a drive through testing center, a pharmacy, the USD 320 Test Center, etc.**
- Persons who are susceptible to COVID-19 disease because they are not fully vaccinated or immune due to above listed criteria, will need to enter quarantine under the direction of the Pott Co Health Department guidelines as follows:
- **Regardless of vaccination status, if you’ve had known exposure and symptoms develop, test immediately and isolate while awaiting results.**

Isolation following a Positive Covid 19 test:

- Isolate at home for day 0-5
- Return to school on day 6 is allowed; but the following must be true:
 - **Symptoms have significantly improved**
 - Fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication
 - MUST wear a well-fitted mask at ALL times*
 - **MUST have a negative antigen test BEFORE returning to school**
If antigen testing is refused the full 10 day at-home quarantine must be completed
 - Antigen tests can be done at the testing center from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday
 - *Students can participate in school activities **as long as masks can be worn correctly at ALL times during practice AND competition AND social distancing (at least 6ft) is maintained.**
 - Students can participate in USD 320 transportation services as long as masks are worn correctly at all times.
 - Students with mask exemptions are not allowed to return until their 10-day isolation is complete. A negative antigen test is still required to return.

In Home Positive Covid 19 Case:

- Everyone in the home must quarantine at home for the duration of the positive person's isolation (day 0-5), unless they are vaccinated (See below vaccinated guidelines)
- Unvaccinated students/staff who are household contacts of a positive case must remain in home quarantine for the positive persons' 5 days of isolation (that person's contagious phase), and THEN quarantine at home for another 5-day days (since there is no longer an option of testing to stay at school.) Students may return to school on day 11 as long as there are no symptoms and receive a negative antigen test within 24hrs before returning to school.
- If vaccinated, students and staff members can return to school if they have no symptoms. It is recommended that the vaccinated individual still be tested on days 3-5 & 7-10 from the date of last known exposure. Masks **must** still be worn correctly for the duration of the positive members' isolation, plus 10 more days; to equal 15 days. (5 days of positives' isolation + 10 days after)
- If another family member/household member becomes positive, this process will start over.
- Students with mask exemptions are not allowed to return until their 10-day isolation is complete. A negative antigen test is still required to return.