

The proposed “modified quarantine” applies to K-12 students that have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19;

- The K-12 student may ONLY attend in-classroom if **both** of the following are true:
 - The student remains symptom free (asymptomatic);
 - The student wears a mask while in-doors, or unable to socially distance if outdoors, for the entire duration of their quarantine;
- A student required to quarantine may not participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, band, social clubs, during their quarantine period even if they are able to attend school using the modified quarantine guidelines presented.
- Students who are unable to wear a mask for any reason during their quarantine period may not attend school and must stay home for the duration of their quarantine.
- If a student develops any symptom(s) consistent with COVID-19; *headache, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, fever or chills, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea*:
 - And tests positive using either a PCR or antigen test, the student must stay home and isolate for a minimum of ten (10) days from the start of symptoms providing they demonstrate improvement in their symptoms;
 - And tests negative using either a PCR or antigen test, the student should remain home until symptoms improve and the student is fever free without medication for a minimum of 24 hours;
 - And does not test, the student must stay home and isolate for a minimum of ten (10) days from the start of symptoms and the student’s symptoms improve and remain fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

Role of Schools Officials

School officials that opt in to the modified quarantine must demonstrate a commitment to the following:

- The district must have a policy and/or procedure in place to monitor for symptoms of students under quarantine while in classrooms.
- The district must cooperate with public health authorities in matters of isolation, quarantine, and recommendations for exclusion.
- Parents of students identified as a close contact in a school setting will be informed of the known exposure and will be provided the option outlined above. In the event the family chooses to quarantine at home, that shall be acceptable without punishment.

Conclusion

Universal masking is still recommended as best practice; however, as the variables of the pandemic have changed, tactics in our approach must also change. Knox Public Health recognizes these complexities and acknowledges the importance of maintaining in school education and instruction.

With the modification of quarantine efforts and upcoming vaccination availability for all K-12 students on the horizon, there is hope for a return to normal at our schools in the future.

