

January 4, 2021

Parents and Families:

On December 28, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) [announced new guidelines for isolation and quarantine periods for COVID-19](#) based on the latest information about the virus and the new Omicron variant. As a result, changes have been made to reduce the amount of time for isolation for those who test positive for the virus and the quarantine period needed for those who have been in close contact with someone who has the virus.

The new guidelines are as follows:

I tested positive.

- Quarantine for 5 days from the day symptoms started or date of positive test.
- If after day 5 you no longer have symptoms or your symptoms are resolving and you have been fever-free for 24 hours without medication, you may return to school on day 6, **but will be required to wear a face covering day 6-10.**
- If you have a fever, stay home until your fever resolves.
- Students may resume extracurricular activities if a face covering is worn. Face coverings are not required when playing or performing.

I am a close contact and I am unvaccinated.

- Stay home for the first 5 days after exposure.
- Get tested on day 5 if you have no symptoms.
- If after day 5 you have no symptoms and you test negative, you may return to school on day 6, **but will be required to wear a face covering until after day 10.**
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home.
- Students may resume extracurricular activities if a face covering is worn. Face coverings are not required when playing or performing.

I am a close contact, but I have been fully vaccinated, including the booster if eligible.

- You do not need to quarantine if you remain symptom-free.
- Test on day 5 if possible.
- It is recommended that you wear a face covering for at least 10 days after your exposure.
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home.

The following apply to Franklin County Middle School and Franklin County High School and have been approved by the County Health Doctor.

1. Students who choose to wear a face covering at all times have the option to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case.
2. Students who choose not to wear a face covering are required to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case.

A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period.

At this time, face coverings still remain optional. The new guidance does permit students and staff to return from a required quarantine on day 6 if they test negative. Face coverings are required day 6-10. Please be aware of the recently updated [Parent Screening Checklist](#) to monitor for signs of potential illness. Students should remain at home if they are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or are awaiting a COVID-19 test result.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your school's nurse.

Sincerely,

Tammy Chavis, ED.S
Superintendent