



Guidance for Quarantine

The providers at Smith County Memorial Hospital, the Smith County Health Department and the administration at USD 237 have worked together to develop the following guidance for students, faculty and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19.

These recommendations are made with the goal of doing as little as possible to disrupt the school year while also keeping students, faculty and staff healthy. The providers, health department and administration will continue to review these recommendations and adjust the guidance if circumstances in the school district change.

The providers at SCMh strongly encourage all faculty, staff and eligible students to receive COVID-19 vaccines to prevent illness. Vaccines are the first and best line of defense against COVID-19 and greatly reduce the likelihood of severe illness.

Students, faculty and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 will be asked to follow the county's quarantine policies. Exceptions to quarantine requirements may be made if:

- A vaccinated student or faculty/staff will not need to quarantine. They may return to school as normal and monitor for symptoms. If the student or faculty/staff develops symptoms, they should be removed and follow the school policy on illness.
- An unvaccinated and asymptomatic student or faculty/staff may quarantine for five days and then contact Smith County Family Practice to take a COVID-19 test. If the test comes back clear, the student or faculty/staff may return to school as normal.
- An unvaccinated and asymptomatic student or faculty/staff may return to school and wear a mask for five days and then contact Smith County Family Practice to take a COVID-19 test. If the test comes back clear, the student or faculty/staff may return to school without a mask.
- An unvaccinated and asymptomatic student or faculty/staff may choose to return to school and wear a mask for 10 days while monitoring for symptoms. If the student or faculty/staff develops symptoms, they should be removed and follow the school policy on illness.

If none of these exceptions are acceptable, a student or faculty/staff will be asked to quarantine at home for 10 days and return to school when the individual is released from quarantine by the health department.

In-School Quarantine

In keeping with the goal of limiting disruption to the school day, an additional exception will be made for students in elementary classes who generally spend the majority of their school day with each other. If the number of elementary students in close contact of a positive case of COVID-19 becomes too high to reasonably perform timely contact tracing, classes will be asked to participate in an in-school quarantine cohort. Students will not be required to wear a mask when in the classroom with their cohort. However, they will be required to wear masks on USD 237 transportation and in the halls and public spaces of the elementary school as a protection for other students, faculty and staff.

Effective 10/25/2021