



Unified School District # 447

618 E. 4th

Cherryvale, Kansas 67335

Wednesday January 19th, 2022

Dear parents and guardians of USD 447 Schools,

As you are aware, the current surge in the omicron variant is creating immense pressure on our schools and staff members as we work to keep classrooms staffed and in-person learning possible. To help alleviate some of the pressure on our schools, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), along with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), support schools implementing a 30-day temporary suspension on all contact tracing activities.

What does this mean for you as parents and guardians? Beginning Thursday, Jan. 20th, our district will no longer notify families whose child may have been in contact, through classroom or extracurricular settings, with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- Students presently in isolation or in test to stay protocol will finish out protocol as previously identified. (Present cases identified in the days prior to today's change)
- If you have a positive in your household your asymptomatic child can still come to school unless they develop symptoms of sickness.
- Symptomatic students should stay home until fever free without medication for 24 hours.
- Quarantine periods are NO longer required for close contact exposures.
- Covid-19 testing will be available to symptomatic students and staff during the school day and with parent approval (where needed.) OR students who believe they may have been a close contact and request to be tested.
- USD 447 masking requirements will remain in effect and measured every 10 days following the district 4% positivity threshold until such numbers are below this threshold.

Please do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they test positive. Notify your school if your child tests positive.

- **Positive Covid-19 Diagnosis:** Any student or staff member with a **positive Covid diagnosis shall complete a five (5) day isolation period.
 - Individuals may return to school on day 6 provided all the following occur:
 - No Covid-19 symptoms or your symptoms are resolving.
 - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
 - Wear a proper fitting mask for days 6-10 at all times at school functions.**

If you have any questions regarding this change to school contact tracing protocols, please contact any of your student's building administration or the school nurse. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this challenging time for our schools and communities. We will continue to keep you informed as guidance changes are announced.

Sincerely,

Aimee Strickland

USD 447 School Nurse

Travis Githens

Superintendent of Schools