

Middleton School District #134

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Dear MSD Parent/Guardian,

We want to provide some additional information to help you better understand our incident response(s) in terms of COVID-19. As you are aware this is new territory for us, and we continue to learn more and refine our practice each day. Our top priority continues to be the health and safety of our staff and students. Because the incubation period for COVID-19 can be up to 14 days, we knew this week would likely be a mark of significance since it has been two weeks from the time we started face to face school and the long Labor Day weekend. We are striving to do things correctly and offer a response to each COVID-19 incident that is timely and appropriate to each scenario.

Exposure

Although there are many details we will not release in regards to each situation, please know that we will immediately notify employees and parents of students if we have reason to believe there has been a first-hand COVID-19 exposure. First hand exposure constitutes one of the following and is what guides the parameters around a quarantine:

1. Exposure to an individual who has a confirmed case of COVID-19
2. Exposure to an individual who has been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, **AND** has been determined to be a probable case by their provider or the health department (exposure in both cases is defined as within a six foot distance for 15 minutes or longer)

Quarantine

MSD works with Southwest District Health each time we have exposure. When it is determined that individuals have had first-hand exposure or have a confirmed positive test the following quarantine timelines are applied:

1. An employee or student has a positive COVID-19 test- *Required 10 day quarantine from school and all school activities including athletics. The ten days are counted from the onset of symptoms.*
2. An employee or student has had first-hand exposure to a confirmed positive case or a probable case- *Required 14 day quarantine from school and all school activities including athletics. The 14 days are counted from the last day of exposure. A probable case is defined as a person who has had exposure to a confirmed case AND is now symptomatic.*

3. Notify your provider or the health department if you become symptomatic while on quarantine as this will change your return to school dates.

Quarantine Parameters

MSD also works with Southwest District Health to set quarantine parameters. Quarantine parameters are built around first-hand exposure only. Both the district and Southwest District Health investigate each issue collaboratively. Because the identity of the individual who caused exposure is strictly confidential, we must rely heavily on these individuals to help us understand who was exposed first-hand. Through this contact-tracing process, we are looking for individuals that were within six feet for 15 minutes or longer to the individual(s) of concern. Below we have included some frequently asked questions in regards to quarantines:

1. Can a quarantine length be shortened? *Generally no, quarantine lengths are set on the parameters listed above, and based on the length of incubation for COVID-19. If your student is subject to a 14 day quarantine as a result of exposure and is symptomatic, you could have your student tested. If they are positive, their quarantine time would be 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If the test is negative, the 14 day quarantine period would still be required due to incubation time.*
2. If my child has been quarantined, why are my other children allowed to attend school and school activities? *Quarantine only applies to first-hand exposure. Your other children would only be quarantined if they had first-hand exposure. This does change if your quarantined student develops symptoms. If this occurs, please call the school office right away.*
3. What happens if an adult in my household has a positive COVID-19 test? *Please immediately notify the school office. If your children have been exposed, they will need to quarantine for 14 days from their last date of exposure to the person with the confirmed case (yes this does mean that the individual with the positive test will need to quarantine from your children while you are both home).*
4. Can I appeal my student's quarantine? *Generally speaking no. The district's decision on who the quarantine will include is final, however, if you believe there may have been an extenuating circumstance that was overlooked, we welcome that conversation.*

Lastly, please keep in mind that while we want you to feel informed, we will not be able to provide many details surrounding each incident. We understand there is value in transparency and communication and we will be working to set up a system that allows the public to view COVID-19 incident numbers in the district. Also, please remember that in a case, such as this week at MHS, we had more than one confirmed/probable case, while it may not make sense to those on the outside looking in, please know that we are making informed decisions to the best of our ability from within to keep everyone as safe and as healthy as possible.

Sincerely,
Middleton School District