

Lake Central School Corporation Guidelines for Quarantining Staff and Students

Local, state, and national health officials recommend a quarantine period for students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 and for individuals who are considered “close contacts” of individuals who test positive. The following questions will address some of the concerns expressed to central office since mid-July. Some of the most difficult questions to answer are dependent on many variables. The promise that our central office will make to families and staff members is to maintain strong communications with other school corporations both locally and state wide in order to stay informed about what is working and what is problematic. Additionally, ongoing communications with health officials both locally and at the state level will also be a daily activity of our administrative team.

Questions:

1. What specifically has the administration been doing to stay current on what local and state health officials are recommending to minimize the spread of COVID-19?

Administration participates in several zoom meetings with local and state health officials and views press conferences put on by Governor Holcomb and Dr. McCormick and the IDOE.

2. When a student or family member self-reports that they have received a positive test, how will the school know who was in close contact with the COVID-19 positive student?

The school will consult with all teachers, bus drivers and extracurricular sponsors to determine what other students should be quarantined to minimize the chances of additional transmission. These staff members will review their seating charts in order to provide the most accurate list of “close contacts.”

3. What if a student or staff member is contacted by a state “tracer” to inform them they should be quarantined based on a positive test result in a close associate?

The student/family or staff member should contact the principal or supervisor to inform them of the need to stay home and self-isolate. If it is an employee, they will be sent paperwork to complete in order to determine the type of leave/benefits that apply to the situation.

4. When a student in any grade is forced to self-isolate due to receiving a positive test or quarantine situation, how do they receive instruction?

The student will be provided information in order for them to watch class from home similar to the students who chose eLearning.

5. How many positive cases in one classroom of students will lead to the entire class being quarantined for 14 days?

If a second student from the same classroom at any grade level receives a positive test prior to the first student getting 10 days past their positive test, the entire class will be asked to self-isolate and participate in class from home temporarily.

6. How will the district determine if in-person instruction for an entire school or the district as a whole should be suspended for a period of time?

Dr. Vavilala, (Lake County Board of Health), on August 11th shared that a recommendation to suspend in person instruction for an entire school building will not occur based on the number of positive tests among students alone. The overall absentee rate, positivity rate in the community, along with hospitalization rates, health care capacity, and other regional data must be considered. Our school corporation is maintaining data bases for both students and staff in order to consistently monitor the number of cases.

7. Where can I find the most recent guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health on the different length of quarantine periods for individuals who are symptomatic as compared to those who are close contacts of an individual who has tested positive?

The Indiana State Department of Health update from 7.29.20 is in the second banner on our home page found at www.lcsc.us

8. What are the current protocols in place for quarantining extracurricular participants?

For students participating in athletics, the plan may be found at www.lcsc.us, then under schools select LCHS, then under extracurricular select Athletics. For marching band, the reentry plan may be found at www.lcsc.us, then under schools select LCHS. For other activities, we will follow the plan of individual classrooms so sponsors will quarantine the close contacts of a student who tests positive and with two positive tests, the activity will be suspended for 14 days.

The administration cannot emphasize enough the importance of families monitoring their children and to keep their child home when sick. Our schools will be as flexible in helping students who only miss a day or two as we will be when a student is quarantined for 14 days or more. "Slowing the spread" and "Mask Up Hoosiers" are slogans that did not originate with us but if we want to keep our students in school, we must work together to keep COVID-19 from spreading in our community.