



Fairfield Local Schools

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Hi folks,

As you are probably aware of by now the State of Ohio has issued updated protocols regarding quarantine options for dealing with COVID. Thankfully our district numbers regarding students and staff being in quarantine have declined over these past few weeks. This is mainly due to everyone pulling together to provide a safe and healthy environment for students and staff.

As you know until now wearing a face covering and/or being vaccinated against Covid-19 are the only two ways to avoid the effects of a school contact quarantine. The new quarantine alternatives are as follows.

On October 25, 2021, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education released quarantine alternatives for students and staff based on state and national research. The alternatives are *Mask to Stay* and *Test to Play*. **These alternatives are only an option for those who have been identified as a close contact in the school setting or during school-related activities. These alternatives do not apply to community/family quarantine situations.**

Option A) Mask to Stay

1. The student will be required to wear a face covering in the school setting for 14 days. Students will be able to remove their masks while eating and during physical activity.
2. The student and parent will monitor for symptoms.
3. If symptoms occur, the student will isolate and be tested by a medical provider.
4. The student may discontinue wearing a mask after day 7 IF:
No symptoms AND tests negative between days 5 and 7 (This test will be provided by a Nurse during the school day. Parents/guardians will be notified of the results.)

Option B) Traditional 10 Day Quarantine with opt-out testing

1. The student will remain at home under quarantine.
2. The student and parent will monitor for symptoms.
3. If symptoms occur, the student will isolate and be tested by a medical provider.
4. Between days 5 and 7, the parent/guardian can schedule testing with a Nurse as long as the student is asymptomatic.
5. If the student tests negative and is asymptomatic, he or she may return to school on day 8.

Option C) Traditional 10 Day Quarantine

1. The student will remain at home under quarantine.
2. The student and parent will monitor for symptoms.
3. If symptoms occur, the student will isolate and be tested by a medical provider.
4. If the student is asymptomatic, he or she may return to school after day 10.

Parents and students may select which quarantine option above that works best for their family. Once they have selected their preferred option they must stay with that option and may not be able to move to a different option.

Test to Play

This alternative will be available for the winter sports season for our student athletes. It allows students to be able to continue participating in practice and athletic competitions. If this alternative is selected, it is expected that the student will be participating in Option A) Mask to Stay.

1. The student athlete will be tested by a Nurse after the initial notification of becoming a close contact is provided to the parent/guardian.
2. The student athlete will wear a face covering during the time of practice and athletic competitions when able (i.e, on the bus, in the locker room, on the bench). The student athlete will not wear a face covering during physical activity.
3. The student and parent will monitor for symptoms.
4. If symptoms occur, the student will isolate and be tested by a medical provider.
5. The student athlete will be tested again by a Nurse between days 5 and 7 during the school day. Parents/guardians will be notified of the results. *Note that there are 2 required tests for student athletes.

This change does not apply to district vehicles. The requirement for face coverings in our district vehicles is in effect until January 18, 2022 due to a federal mandate.

There is a lot of new information in this document. Please know that we are happy to help answer any questions. Our goal has always been to keep students in school for in-person instruction. We look forward to students being able to “Mask to Stay” and are hopeful that isolation and case counts will remain low.