



Miami County Health Department
1201 Lakemary Drive
Paola, KS 66071
Office: (913) 294-2431
Fax: (913) 294-9506

For Immediate Release

Date: September 2nd, 2020

Re: COVID-19 in K-12 Schools: Public Health Guidance for Administrators

The Miami County Health Department is releasing the following public health guidance for K-12 schools. These recommendations are being updated and are based on currently available data and science, as well as other expert analysis regionally, and nationally. Miami County schools have been some of the first in the state to move forward in offering the opportunity for in-person learning to students and families. Miami County Health Department has worked closely with regional health departments and school administrators to quickly identify cases and close contacts within the schools, and to monitor the spread of COVID-19 through case and contact investigation. As of September 2nd, 2020, Miami County Health Department Guidance for Administrators has been issued and the definition of a ‘close-contact’ has been revised at a local level to reflect the incentivized usage of masks within the school settings. The guidance in this document may change as additional scientific evidence becomes available and the findings dictating practice expand.

Moving forward, because Miami County Health Department’s definition of a ‘close-contact’ has been modified, this could mean that you have a student currently in quarantine, who no longer would be subject to quarantine, as of September 2, 2020.

What this means for students in Miami County schools:

If you have been contacted by either Miami County Health Department or Kansas Department of Health and Environment to be informed that your student is subject to quarantine due to a **CLASSROOM** exposure, meaning, within six-feet of a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 student or staff member within the classroom setting, and both parties were appropriately masked, your student is no longer subject to quarantine. It is highly recommended that your student self-monitor for the remainder of the incubation period, and to contact Miami County Health Department or your primary care provider to evaluate for COVID-19 testing.

If you have been contacted by either Miami County Health Department or Kansas Department of Health and Environment to be informed that your student is subject to quarantine due to an exposure **OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM** (i.e. high risk sports activity, household/family/friend close-contact of a laboratory-confirmed case and no mask usage), your student is still subject to

the 14-day quarantine and will not be allowed to return to school until released by the local health department.

Miami County Health Department will continue to partner with school administrators to implement and adopt mitigation techniques to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting.

Please continue to do your part to slow the spread and reduce transmission of COVID-19. It is extremely important that we all continue to practice social distancing, practice good hygiene and respiratory etiquette, wear face masks when distancing recommendations aren't possible to maintain and lastly, to make good decisions and to set good examples that not only protect our students and school personnel, but our entire community. We are all in this together.

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