

SENTINEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 640 • Sentinel, Oklahoma 73664 • (580) 393-2101

Jason Goostree, Superintendent ~ Theron Graybill, High School Principal ~ Paula Combs, Elementary Principal

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for New CDC Quarantine Guidelines

December 4, 2020

Sentinel parents and students,

There have been a few questions about the new CDC quarantine guidelines that came out a few days ago. I want to take this opportunity to answer some of those questions and apologize if my previous letters have been confusing.

***Question:** When can a student utilize the new 7 day shortened quarantine?

***Answer:** A student may only utilize the new 7 day shortened quarantine if they have had no symptoms for the duration of their 7 days of quarantine and have proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of their 7th day of quarantine. The test could be administered on day 5, 6 or 7. If these criteria are met, the student could return to school on day 8 and will be required to wear a mask for days 8-14 while at school, in school vehicles and any other situations when they are unable to socially distance, as required.

***Question:** When can a student utilize the new 10 day shortened quarantine?

***Answer:** A student may only utilize the new 10 day shortened quarantine if they have had no symptoms for the duration of their 10 days of quarantine. If this criteria is met, the student could return to school on day 11 and will be required to wear a mask for days 11-14 while at school, in school vehicles and any other situations when they are unable to socially distance, as required.

***Question:** Can any student get tested?

***Answer:** Only students that have officially been placed in quarantine because of close, sustained contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 individual will be allowed to utilize the rapid antigen testing for the new 7 day shortened quarantine.

***Question:** If a student tests negative on day 5, 6 or 7 can they come back to school that day?

***Answer:** No, the minimum length of a quarantine is 7 days.

***Question:** When can my quarantined student take a COVID rapid antigen test?

***Answer:** We are currently finalizing the guidelines for testing and waiting on guidance from state agencies for a student consent form. When those things are ready, we will notify our parents through SchoolMessenger, the SPS Facebook page, SPS website (www.sentinel.k12.ok.us) and the Sentinel Leader.

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***Question:** What happens if my student develops symptoms after day 7 or 10?

***Answer:** If symptoms occur, the student must immediately isolate and should seek testing.

***Question:** Why did the CDC change their quarantine guidelines?

***Answer:** The CDC approved this change based on months of research, which revealed that only a small percentage of COVID cases emerge more than five days after exposure. We are pleased their adjustment will allow us to continue to protect students and staff, while also decreasing the amount of instructional time they must miss.

Our commitment to safety is unwavering, and we promise to stay informed about the latest research and recommendations from local, state and national health officials. Please continue to take every precaution to slow the spread of COVID-19. Wash your hands, wear a mask and practice social distancing. It is also important to stay home when you do not feel well. Thank you for all your help in providing a safe environment for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Mr. Goostree