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De Soto #73 School District



Health Services Dept.

Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.

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September 2, 2021

De Soto Dragons,

I wanted to take a moment to reach out to the entire De Soto Family today to share an update with you on our quarantine guidelines. The Jefferson County Health Department has made some changes to school quarantine guidance based upon local data in an effort to safely keep students and staff in school when an individual is identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case. The Jefferson County Health Department (JCHD) will continue to follow guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for isolation and quarantine, but have added "Modified Quarantine" guidance within school districts on September 2, 2021 as long as a district is under a 4% positivity rate.

The new "Modified Quarantine" guidance only applies to the school setting and will go into effect immediately for the De Soto School District. Outside the school setting, all in-home quarantine requirements still apply in accordance with JCHD guidelines. What a "Modified Quarantine" means for our staff and students is that in the event that a staff member or student is identified as a close contact (contact within 6 feet for 15 minutes) to an individual, while on campus, that tests positive for Covid, those contacts will be allowed to remain in school during the quarantine period as long as these contacts comply with the following JCHD guidelines:

- Individuals on a modified quarantine must continue to wear a mask while on the bus
- Individuals on a modified quarantine must wear a properly fitted mask consistently for a duration of 14 days after exposure during the school day.
- All children and teachers in elementary classrooms will mask during the school day for a duration of 14 days after exposure when there is a positive case identified within the class. As data becomes available, this guideline will be reviewed and considered for additional changes.
- Social distancing will be maintained when possible
- Lunch will be provided in a designated area for those on modified quarantine

Any student identified as a contact will receive a letter with information specific to their exposure. Those students that do not comply with the JCHD modified guidelines listed above, will be excluded from school and will finish the remainder of their quarantine at home as outlined by the JCHD. If your child has been identified as a contact, you may choose to keep your student home. Further arrangements will be made with administration to provide a quarantine teacher for these situations. In the event that a student on modified quarantine becomes symptomatic, please notify their building nurse as the student will be required to isolate per JCHD guidelines.

Those that are placed on modified quarantine will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities and sports for a period of 14 days; however, they may observe as long as they are wearing masks appropriately and maintain a physical distance from those actively practicing.

Contacts that are fully vaccinated, have been diagnosed with COVID in the previous 90 days, or were confirmed to have an "in-school" exposure where both parties were wearing masks appropriately, WILL NOT need to quarantine, follow modified quarantine, or abstain from extracurricular activities or sports.

Based upon the updated JCHD guidance, if your child is currently in quarantine and has remained asymptomatic, you may send them back to school provided they wear a mask for the remainder of their designed quarantine time. We ask that you have your child check in with their building nurse upon their return. Additionally, based upon the current guidance, if your child is identified as a close contact they will have the option to stay in school if the modified quarantine guidance is followed and they remain asymptomatic or they can remain at home while under quarantine by the JCHD. The De Soto School District will work closely with you and your child on whatever options work best for your family.

Thank you,

Dawn Brown, R.N., Lead Nurse, District Pandemic Coordinator

***636-586-1030 De Soto Jr. High School
636-586-1085 De Soto High School***

***636-586-1020 Athena Elementary
636-586-1010 Vineland Elementary
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