

# KEYSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 24, 2020

## **RE: What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)?**

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Staff:

There are many, many questions that still need to be addressed prior to the start of school. As a school administrator (and a parent), I've spent a great deal of time researching and contemplating the issues surrounding a positive COVID-19 case within the school building(s) as well as how to manage a direct exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 (i.e. positive case within the home and/or close contact with an infected person).

Current CDC Guidelines state the following:

**Did a student or staff member test positive for SARS-CoV-2?** If someone within the school community (e.g., student, teacher, staff) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, assessing the level of risk is important to determine if, when, and for how long part or all of a school should be closed. A single case of COVID-19 in a school would not likely warrant closing the entire school, especially if levels of community transmission are not high. The levels of community transmission described above and the extent of close contacts of the individual who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 should all be considered before closing. These variables should also be considered when determining how long a school, or part of the school, stays closed. If the transmission of the virus within a school is higher than that of the community, or if the school is the source of an outbreak, administrators should work collaboratively with local health officials to determine if temporary school closure is necessary. Students, teachers, and staff who test positive or had close contact of the individual who tested positive should be provided with guidance for when it is safe to discontinue self-isolation or end quarantine.

If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case (confirmed with laboratory evidence, not rumor on social media) within our school community, I will provide a notification to families, staff, and students in accordance with applicable privacy requirements. We will not release personally identifiable information and we will work to protect the privacy of the infected individual. With that said, we are also required to work with local DOH/CMHD to support contact tracing and will assist with notifications to students/families or staff that have had a direct exposure to a person with COVID-19.

We will work with local DOH/CMHD, using current data on the level of community transmission, to determine how and when to close schools. It may be necessary to isolate certain cohorts of students in an effort to prevent exposure or to mitigate risk. While we hope we don't have a confirmed case within the school community, we have specific strategies to address these concerns on a case-by-case basis and to make informed decisions concerning the closure of school(s) in whole or part.

Sincerely,

Shawn Algoe, Superintendent