

On Friday, January 14, 2022, the Crawford County Health Department released updated guidelines for schools regarding COVID positive cases, contact to positive cases and COVID testing procedures. The updated guidelines go into effect on Monday, January 17, 2022. The updated document can be seen below. I want to offer some specific clarifications in order to highlight the significant changes.

1. Positive Cases - No changes from previous guidelines
2. Contact to household positive cases - No changes. However, we can offer daily testing for staff/students to stay in school as we have done for the past month.
3. Non-Household Exposure - Major Changes! Students/Staff who are identified as a close contact to a positive individual at school will no longer be required to quarantine/isolate from school. We will do our best to notify parents if their child was considered a close contact to an individual at school, but the child can still attend school. If the parent chooses, we can test your child for the next 10 days as part of our "Test to Know" program.
However, it is the parents' choice as of right now. Those individuals who are currently testing to stay in school will not be required to test any longer if they fall into the non-household exposure group.
4. Extra-curricular participation - If a student has been identified as a close contact to a non-household individual, they do not have to quarantine or test to attend school. However, they must "Test to Play" before they will be allowed to participate in any physical extra-curricular activity (basketball, wrestling, ect.) if they fall into this group.
5. Vaccination Status - No changes from previous guidelines.

Crawford County Health Department:
Positive Case—Covid-19 School Guidelines
Updated 1/14/2022 per CCHD

Covid positive staff or students must isolate for 5 days from symptom onset, then must wear a mask on days 6-10. (To be able to mask on day 6, the case must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms must be improved.) Students on day 6 through 10 who are unable to properly wear masks are not eligible to play/practice sports as per KDHE isolation and testing guidelines.

Contacts to a household positive Covid case:

On-going household exposure to a covid case should be quarantined for a total of 15 days (5 days with the positive case, plus an additional 10 days) following KDHE guidelines.

- Alternative KDHE guidance is that close household contacts need to stay home during the entirety of the case's at home isolation period which is a minimum of 5 days. After that period, the household contact begins their quarantine period which is 5 days in home quarantine followed by 5 days of masking with a well-fitting mask when indoors and outdoors when around others.

*School systems that have available resources may elect to allow students in their test-to-stay program in lieu of home quarantine and should follow the testing guidelines from KDHE (most recently updated 12 January, 2022).

Non-Household Exposure:

1. For normal school attendance:

Due to the significant spread in the community of COVID-19, it has become unmanageable to evaluate potential contacts within their systems. It is highly recommended that the schools notify those that may be exposed (classroom, in-school or outside of school contact) to a positive person, so that they may monitor for symptoms for 10 days. Parents/students may choose to enter the school testing program per KDHE testing guidelines.

2. Extra-curricular participation:

The extra-curricular programs present an additional risk when competing with students from another school from outside their normal school cohort. This group should be entered into the test-to-play program per KDHE guidelines to prevent the possible spread to other systems. Competing institutions should be notified of exposure concerns prior to competing.

Vaccination Status:

The Health Department will follow KDHE guidelines for isolation and quarantine recommendations. Those who are vaccinated and/or boosted within the last 6 months or have had a documented case of covid-19 within the last 6 months, do not have to quarantine. Currently, children aged 5 to 17 who have completed initial vaccination series do not need to quarantine (no booster requirement). Anyone exposed to positive contact should monitor for any signs or symptoms. Masking should be required for any students or staff in the test-to-stay program while at school (and in the community) except for during strenuous activities.