

DATE: January 12, 2022
TO: Administration and Board of Education
FROM: Brittiney Belche , Jordyn Wendhausen, Heather Olson
RE: 5 day isolation DPI/CDC changes -
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Though the nursing team recognizes these changes at the CDC/DPI level, at this time we do not feel it's in the best interest of our district to adapt these recommendations due to the guidelines that are required from day 6 to day 10.

The recommendation to move to a 5 day isolation period and **masking days 6-10 is recommended for school districts with a universal masking policy**. We do not require universal masking and when our numbers drop below threshold, we will allow students and staff to remove their masks if they wish.

Additionally, the CDC recommendations state that on days 6-10 of the COVID period, an individual **should not remove their masks around other individuals for any reason, especially to eat**. It is unclear how we would provide a safe area for these individuals to have lunch and snacks while at school as our students are eating in the cafeteria together.

Strict masking and social distancing is also required during days 6-10. We do not have adequate staffing to ensure that every individual that is within the 6-10 window is wearing a well-fitted mask that is covering both their mouth and nose and are unable to guarantee that every setting this individual would be in during school would allow for social distancing.

The recommendation also comes with the understanding that individuals who are still **experiencing a fever on day 5 or who are severely ill will remain under isolation through day 10**. Individuals are only considered "fever free" if they have not taken any fever-reducing medications. This is another requirement we cannot monitor for each student returning to school after a positive COVID case as these students are home during their isolation and we are unaware of symptom severity.

The CDC requirements state that individuals who are COVID positive on days 6-10 should **avoid being around anyone who is high risk**. Being a school setting- we have individuals who are considered high risk in all 4 buildings. This could put many of our staff and students who are medically fragile at risk.

The recommendations to move quarantine for individuals with a COVID positive exposure to 5 days in place of 10 days has all of the above requirements plus **recommends a negative test on day 6 before returning to activities**. Due to the nation-wide shortage of rapid COVID tests, we are not currently able to offer rapid testing in school for students.

In summary, at this time the nursing team does not recommend the adaptation to this new guidance. We want to ensure we are implementing the best measures for the safety of our students, staff, and the community.