

Good afternoon LCA Families,

Yesterday, the Licking County Health Department updated its school guidance document. As the health department has continued to evaluate how many students that are placed in quarantine actually get sick, they have made a change to quarantine guidelines in schools. Please note that this change only applies to exposure that occurs in a school setting.

Remember students are not required to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact if they meet one of the following criteria:

1. Individuals that are fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated is defined as having two doses of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, **and** it has been at least 14 days since the last dose of vaccine was administered.
2. Individuals that consistently wear a mask in a classroom setting.
3. Individuals that maintain at least 6 feet of distance from an individual with COVID-19, or at least 3 feet of distance during lunch.
4. Individuals that have been within six feet of an individual with COVID-19 for less than 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period.
5. Individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 through a viral test (antigen or PCR) within 90 days of the date of their exposure to an individual with COVID-19.

If students are required to quarantine based on classroom exposure, parents now have the following three options to consider:

1. The individual can complete their quarantine period at home and not attend school or participate in extracurricular activities.
2. The individual can return to school and extracurricular activities on **day 8** of their quarantine period if they test negative for COVID-19 through a viral (PCR or antigen) test **at least 5 days** after their school exposure.
3. **The individual can return to school immediately if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms, and they wear a mask in school for the duration of their quarantine period. In this case, the student cannot participate in extracurricular activities during their quarantine period, and they should remain at home when they are not in school.**

Our goal, along with the health department, is to provide options that can keep as many kids in school as possible while maintaining health and safety. The addition of option #3 will allow more kids to stay in school. Please know that the Health Department used real data from our county to come to this decision and believe that student health and safety will be maintained with this change.

If exposure occurs outside of the classroom setting at home or in other places, please remember that nothing has changed. Students would still need to quarantine at home for ten days. In addition, if someone in your home is sick with COVID-19, please quarantine your students for ten days to monitor for symptoms unless the student is vaccinated.

Thanks for your continued support as we navigate these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Amanda Cecil**

Head of School