



## Osage County Health Department

205 E. Main Street \* P.O. Box 533

Linn, Missouri 65051

Phone: (573)-897-3103 \* Fax: (573)-897-4915

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Policy on Mask Use and Quarantine in K-12 Schools

November 20, 2020

This policy is in response to recent guidelines offered by the governor's office, DESE, and DHSS:

1. An official mask mandate must be written into procedures, in effect, and enforced which require ALL staff and students to PROPERLY wear a *surgical* mask at all times feasible throughout the school day.
  - a. Staff or students unable to utilize a face covering due to a medical exception with documentation provided by their primary care physician will not void the mask mandate but the student will not be eligible for exemption from quarantine should they be identified for exposure.
  - b. It is not necessary for the mask mandate to affect the entire district, however, populations of students and staff not required to mask may not intermix with those under the mandate. This can be accomplished through building wide mandates, physical boundaries, or procedural controls that guarantee separation.
2. Schools must continue to identify all students who meet current criteria for significant close contact and provide this information to the Osage County Health Department.
  - a. Students eligible for exception from quarantine due to proper mask use must be designated on the contact list.
  - b. To ensure proper identification of students, assigned seating in the classrooms and during meal periods must be in place and enforced.
  - c. The Osage County Health Department will be monitoring cases and continue to collect data regarding the effectiveness of the new guidelines. In the event of multiple positive cases, suggesting transmission in the classroom, the Osage County Health Department may re-evaluate the current mask guidance and return to CDC quarantine guidelines.
3. This exemption for quarantine applies only in the typical academic setting and does NOT apply to time spent on the bus, any athletics, or other extra-curricular activities. **Students identified as a close contact, regardless of mask use, must be excluded from extracurricular activities for 14 days from last exposure to the positive case.**
4. School districts must notify parents of all significant close contact exposures, regardless of mask use, and parents should be given the option to quarantine their child. If this is their choice, the student will be officially quarantined by the Osage County Health Department.
5. Students in quarantine due to exposure occurring outside of the school setting, including exposure on the bus, are expected to follow and complete CDC close-contact quarantine guidelines and would be exempt from attending school.