

January 14, 2022

Dear Creve Coeur School District # 76 Faculty, Staff & Parents/Guardians:

We want to share that the isolation and quarantine period for students and staff members sick with COVID-19 or considered a close contact has been **reduced to five days**.

The Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education and Tazewell County Health Department announced that the agencies have adopted CDC guidance for P-12 schools that halves the isolation and quarantine period. The Illinois State Board of Education updated its guidance for P-12 schools on January 11 and those documents can be found isbe.net under the COVID-19 section.

As a result, effective immediately, Creve Coeur School District # 76 will implement the updated guidance. As soon as possible, we will contact staff, students and families who are currently impacted by quarantine with a revised return to school plan.

This announcement **does not** change the state of Illinois' mask requirement for anyone inside school buildings. The Governor's indoor mask mandate for school is still in effect until further notice.

Staff and students who are currently impacted by quarantine now have a revised return to school date. Please see the chart below to know when to send your child back to school.

<i>If a student or staff member tested positive or first had symptoms on the following date:</i>	<i>The new return to school/work date is the following:</i>
Monday 1/3 - Saturday - 1/8	Thursday, 1/13
Saturday, 1/9	Friday, 1/14
Sunday, 1/10	Tuesday, 1/18, due to weekend and holiday
Monday, 1/11	Tuesday, 1/18, due to holiday and weekend
Friday, 1/12	Tuesday, 1/18, due to holiday and weekend
<i>*Any date prior to 1/3/2022 should return on Thursday, 1/13/22, if not already returned.</i>	<i>**The date above is if a person is fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.</i>

Unvaccinated students and staff not fully vaccinated who are close contacts are now required to quarantine for 5 days. The following is a table with the revised return to school dates.

<i>If an unvaccinated student or not boosted staff member was a close contact on the following:</i>	<i>The new return to school/work date is the following:</i>
Monday 1/3 - Saturday - 1/8	Thursday, 1/13
Saturday, 1/9	Friday, 1/14
Sunday, 1/10	Tuesday, 1/18, due to weekend and holiday
Monday, 1/11	Tuesday, 1/18, due to holiday and weekend
Friday, 1/12	Tuesday, 1/18, due to holiday and weekend
<i>*Any date prior to 1/3/2022 should return to school Thursday, 1/13/2022, if not already returned.</i>	<i>**Test on day 5 if possible</i>

In addition, we want to pass along information from IDPH/ISBE and CDC related to quarantine and recommended isolation periods. Below is summary information.

What is quarantine?

Quarantine means staying home for at least 5 days after exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. This is because someone can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 but may not show symptoms. Even though someone may not show symptoms, they can still spread the virus.

Quarantine is different from isolation. Isolation is used by someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, or tests positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms. Isolation helps prevent transmission of the virus by separating people infected with the virus from those who are not infected.

Information pertaining to the guidance:

- Quarantine and isolation periods begin with day 0 (the day a person is in last contact with a positive case, symptoms onset, or the day a person tests positive for COVID) and continues through day 5. For example, if someone tests positive on Monday, Tuesday would be day 1 and Saturday would be day 5, with the individual able to move out of quarantine/isolation on Sunday. The individual should continue to wear a well-fitting mask through day 10. If the student or staff member cannot wear a mask, then the individual needs to complete the 10 days of quarantine.

- Testing on day 5 is recommended, but not required.
- Students/Staff may return to school after 5 full days of isolation if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms are gone.
- Schools may continue to utilize test-to-stay protocols for close contacts within the school environment, utilizing 2 tests during a 7 day period.
- If you are unvaccinated and home with a positive, your 5 days start from the last contact of positive (depending on isolation).

Those who are fully vaccinated and are not demonstrating symptoms do not need to quarantine. To be considered fully vaccinated:

- An individual who is age 18 and older and has received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- An individual who is age 5–17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- An individual who has had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test).

The new guidance is promising as we want to keep students in in-person learning as much as possible. However, with the surge in cases and the difficulty our current healthcare system is having in response to the surge, it will be even more important for all of us to follow all COVID mitigation measures. With the reduction in isolation and quarantine dates to 5, it is imperative that we all work together to keep everyone healthy. **PLEASE KEEP SICK STUDENTS HOME.**

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we continue to adjust to ever-changing guidance.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and teachers. It's been an incredibly difficult year, but we will continue to push forward together.

Most Sincerely,



Steven K. Johnson, Superintendent
Creve Coeur School District # 76