



Wednesday, August 18

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I know this is a challenging time for our community as we begin another school year turned upside down by Covid. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate the sometimes hourly changes to safety protocols within our realm of authority.

The purpose of today's email is to make you aware of significant changes to our Covid exposure and quarantine practices. In July, health officials told us that we could only recommend quarantines. As a result, we have been notifying the entire class of a Covid exposure. As of today, the Oklahoma City-County Health Department has amended its quarantine guidance, giving us permission to act on their authority and **require** quarantines for anyone who is in close contact with a Covid positive individual.

***Title 63 § 1-504***

*Section A: "Whenever a local health officer determines or suspects that a person has been exposed to and may be incubating a communicable disease of public health concern, the local health officer may impose a quarantine upon such person and require such person to remain out of public contact and in the place or premises where such person usually stays. Notice thereof shall be given in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health. It shall be unlawful for such person, or any other person, to violate the terms or conditions of the quarantine."*

With this change, we will no longer be sending notifications to the entire class. We will only notify the parents of students who have been in close contact with a known positive case. The parent notification will provide quarantine dates and fully vaccinated versus unvaccinated requirements. These protocols can also be found on our district website, [edmondschools.net](http://edmondschools.net).

**Additional Information**

## **Masks**

Science tells us that wearing a mask is one of the most important mitigation measures we can take to help stop the spread of COVID and protect our students and one another. Edmond Public Schools strongly encourages students and teachers to wear masks. As in-person instruction is our goal, it is important that we do everything we can to remain in school five days a week, and wearing masks will help to ensure we can achieve our goal.

## **Mitigation Measures**

Each school site continues to evaluate and make changes to its safety protocols and procedures to the degree possible in an effort to mitigate the virus.

## **Virtual Edmond**

The deadline to enroll in Virtual Edmond is one week away. Families must make their enrollment decisions by 5 p.m. on August 25. After that date, families are committed to their enrollment choice through the end of the semester. Families of students enrolled in in-person learning who want to change to VE must contact their **home site registrar** prior to August 25. Families of students enrolled in VE who want to change to in-person learning must contact the **appropriate VE administrator** prior to August 25.

## **Covid Testing Hub**

For your convenience, the district has opened an urgent care clinic at Cross Timbers Elementary, 4800 N. Kelly, where staff, students, or family members can be tested for Covid, flu, and strep from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The center is separate from the school and has its own entrance, exam rooms, restroom, and HVAC system. The center's phone number is (405) 726-4816.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work to protect your child. It is only by partnering together that our shared children can experience success.

Sincerely,  
Angela Grunewald  
Superintendent