

January 17, 2022

USD 345 Staff and Families:

On Monday, January 17, 2022 the board unanimously approved the discontinuation of contact tracing in school buildings. Contact tracing is no longer sustainable by our staff due to the increased number of positive cases and the rapid transmission rate of the omicron variant.

[Click here to view the board approved update.](#)

It is important to note, this is a change in our protocol out of necessity, as we are no longer able to contact trace effectively and consistently at this time. Under current circumstances, our nursing staff is spending a great deal of time communicating with parents of positive cases, household contacts, and reported close contacts helping families navigate Test to Learn options and the Shawnee County Health Department's (SCHD) updates to isolation and quarantine.

Last Friday, we had over 100 reported positive cases and 52 individuals in our Test to Learn (TTL) program. Schools all around us are nearing a crisis point for simply staying open. At this time, we have been able to sustain sufficient admin and staff coverage and have not yet had to close our buildings. We will continue to monitor staff absences daily and will strive to keep our buildings open for learning.

TTL will continue to be an option, as testing kits are available. If our supply runs low, we have been authorized to limit testing from five days to two (first day of exposure and the fifth). Our nursing staff will keep TTL participants aware of any changes to the program.

Thank you for your understanding as we make difficult decisions in operations based on our available resources. We will continue to work closely with KDHE and SCHD as we follow their recommendations and monitor the impact in our buildings. Please consider masking and vaccinations as preventative measures and if you're sick or your child is exhibiting symptoms of illness, please stay home.

We will continue working to keep you informed and updated with any changes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Noble
Superintendent