



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department
Linda K. Ochs, Director
2600 SW East Circle Dr., Topeka, KS 66606
Ph. 785.251.5600 | Fax 785.251.5696
www.shawneehealth.org

Close Contact Quarantine Modification in the School Setting – Shawnee County Elementary and Middle Schools ONLY

October 21, 2020

Close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting 2 days before illness onset or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection. The best approach for prevention of COVID-19 transmission continues to be wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing of 6 feet at all times. However, there are instances when a close contact may occur within a school. In those cases, appropriate isolation or quarantine precautions need to be taken. Based on a review of the information from SNCO schools over the past 6 to 8 weeks, we are implementing a close contact follow-up modification **for elementary and middle school students**, effective Wednesday, Oct. 21st, 2020.

“If there is a close contact **in the classroom** and both individuals (the positive case and the exposed individual) are wearing a mask correctly and for the entire duration of the close contact, in general the exposed individual(s) will not be placed into a 14 day quarantine. Each case/situation will continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis, through collaboration with the school(s)/district POC and SCHD.”

*This close contact modified quarantine guidance does not include close contact situations that occur during athletic and other school sponsored events, and does not include students and staff in high schools. **It also only applies to situations where there is at least one child/student involved. Adult to adult contact should continue to follow the 6 foot social distancing mitigation strategy.** Symptomatic individuals and individuals who test positive for coronavirus must continue to adhere to the isolation guidelines they receive from the health department.*

Created 10-20-2020

Healthy People – Healthy Environment – Healthy Shawnee County