



Allen County Combined Health District

COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance for Schools **December 5, 2020**

Allen County Public Health will be making changes to the way we provide quarantine notices and release letters to students and staff. With the recent guidance from the Ohio Department of Health and CDC that provides some flexibility for the duration of quarantine periods, it will be extremely difficult for us to manage this process alone.

Everyone who receives a Self-Quarantine letter from Allen County Public Health will also be provided with start and release dates for all three potential durations (see below). Your school Point of Contact will receive a copy of the quarantine letter sent to the student/staff. Since this letter has the start and end dates, release letters not be sent to schools. We recognize that there will be a transition period for those who are currently finishing a quarantine period and ask for your patience as we work through this brief period.

We will be relying on the school nurses to verify releases from quarantine based on the following guidance and the quarantine letters issued to students/staff.

Your school district can decide which of the quarantine durations you will accept for allowing students/staff to return to school/activities and any related documentation that must be provided to the school nurse.

School nurses are able to view the Ohio Contact Tracing Software (OCTS) program which can help them verify that students are not reporting any symptoms and are healthy enough to return.

We are providing you with a sample letter and a partial November-December calendar that lists the appropriate quarantine-related dates that can be used as a guide once you identify the last date of contact.

The quarantine periods adopted by the Ohio Department of Health are listed below.

14-Day Quarantine - Preferred

A 14-day quarantine is preferred in order to verify whether or not people have COVID-19. Everyone who is quarantined should follow all the Quarantine Guidance provided for the full 14-day period, even if they are released early (see below). The 14-day quarantine period starts the day after a person's last contact with a known positive case.

A 14-day quarantine is recommended for people who live or work congregate living facilities such as a nursing homes, assisted living, group homes or college dorms. The 14-day quarantine period is also recommended for people who come in contact with those at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Reduced Quarantine Periods

10-Day Quarantine

- Individuals with no symptoms can be released from quarantine – without a negative test - after 10 days from last exposure to COVID-19.
- Individuals must still self-monitor for symptoms through the 14th day from last exposure.
- If a person develops symptoms, or tests positive, then they begin an isolation period.

7-Day Quarantine

Individuals can be released from quarantine 7 days after exposure **IF**:

- A COVID-19 test is taken on day 5 or later after exposure and is negative; **AND**
- 7 days have passed since the last exposure to COVID-19 (even if negative test result is returned before the 7th day)
- Individuals must still self-monitor for symptoms through the 14th day from last exposure.
- If a person develops symptoms, or tests positive, then they must begin an isolation period.

Documentation of release from REDUCED QUARANTINE will include the ACPH Self-Quarantine Letter, but for a 7-day release, an individual must provide their own documentation of their negative test result to their employer or school. Allen County Public Health does NOT receive notification of negative test results from labs and will not have that information.