

January 13, 2022

Dear ASA Families,

The Kent County Health Department recently released their updated guidance for COVID-19 prevention in the Educational Settings to align with the CDC and MDHHS. As we have done since the start of the pandemic, All Saints Academy will follow the requirements of the health department to the best of our ability in order to keep our community protected. The Public Health Order is attached to this email.

The new Public Health Order (PHO) pertains to all educational institutions and settings including K-12, Daycares, Preschools and Universities.

1. The CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>.

The CDC's Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>. Please note that the CDC's isolation and quarantine recommendations for students and staff *differ* from those of the K-12 Schools. You can find this specific guidance for isolation and quarantine under #8 Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine.

2. For K-12 Schools and Universities, quarantine is now 5 days for school contacts, calculated by using the last exposure date. Household contacts will have 10-day quarantine which includes 5 days while the household case is isolation and 5 additional days of quarantine. Those families who are currently in a longer quarantine are eligible to have their quarantine adjusted to 5 days (for K-12 schools). *Students should wear a mask upon their return to school for days 6 - 10.*

EXAMPLE GUIDANCE FOR K-12 Schools ONLY:

Positive Household Member Isolation Day 5 = 1/10/22, Household close contact's Quarantine Day 5 = 1/15/22; Return to School = 1/16/22. (10 days)

For Daycares and Preschools, quarantine remains 10 days for school contacts, calculated by using the last exposure date. Household contacts will have a 15-day quarantine which includes 5 days while the household case is in isolation and 10 additional days of quarantine. Those families who are currently in a longer household quarantine are eligible to have their quarantine adjusted.

EXAMPLE GUIDANCE FOR PRESCHOOLS/DAYCARES ONLY:

Positive Household Member Isolation Day 5 = 1/10/22, Household close contact's Quarantine Day 10 = 1/20/22; Return to School = 1/21/22. (15 days)

3. All persons, regardless of vaccination status, who test positive for COVID-19 or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a licensed health care provider are required to isolate at home. In Educational Settings that have a universal face mask policy, persons who are asymptomatic or fever-free without medication and with symptoms largely resolved may return to school wearing an appropriate well-fitting mask between days 6 and 10. In Educational Settings that do not have a universal face mask policy, persons must continue to isolate at home through day 10.

For Daycares and Preschools, the CDC recommends all students and staff isolate for 10 days regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.

4. For K-12 schools only, a *student* (in the classroom setting only), who is within 3-6 ft of a positive person when *both the student and the positive person are masked* is NOT considered a close contact. That student does not need to be identified on the contact tracing spreadsheet.

For Daycares and Preschools, the CDC does not include this exemption to the definition of a close contact. They continue to recommend that anyone who is within 0-6 feet of an infected person for 15+ cumulative minutes should be identified as a close contact and quarantine at home.

5. Schools and daycares are strongly encouraged but not required to report positive cases of COVID-19 in the school setting to KCHD.

6. Schools and daycares are strongly encouraged but not required to report close contacts in the school setting to KCHD. If the school sends a contact tracing spreadsheet to KCHD, we will process it and send a recommendation to quarantine letter to the close contacts identified on the spreadsheet.

7. Schools and daycares are strongly encouraged but not required to report outbreaks to KCHD. All close contacts in the outbreak setting will be recommended to quarantine. KCHD will assist with providing the best mitigation strategies for reducing ongoing exposure risk and assisting with determining if classroom closure is recommended.

8. Schools and daycares are strongly encouraged but not required to enforce quarantine for school close contacts. However, schools and daycares should note that the CDC guidance does *not* recommend allowing students to remain at school during the quarantine period.

9. Universal masking for all persons in the educational setting, regardless of vaccination status is strongly recommended. Schools and daycares are strongly encouraged to create a universal masking policy for their facility.

We will continue to notify the entire school of positive cases in our buildings each as we learn about them. If your child is a close contact or in a classroom with a positive case, you will receive an email on the day of discovery outlining the next steps.

This virus continues to be highly contagious. The mitigation measures outlined by the health department will help to lower the spread in many cases. If your child is experiencing any symptoms, even if they are mild, we ask that you keep him/her home and monitor symptoms closely.

God Bless,

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Our ASA Sponsor of the week is: RS Technical Services



ASA Sponsors financially support All Saints Academy. Please patronize them whenever possible.

Public Health Order that was attached to the email can be found here:

https://www.accesskent.com/Health/pdf/COVID-19/covid19-prevention-in-educational-settings_01122022.pdf