

Quarantined Students:

The quarantine process has presented educational challenges for students. The development of the Wellness Coordinators is designed to give quarantining students the opportunity to engage with a teacher if they choose to do so. The program is not the hybrid from last year. Quarantined student learning will not be at the same level as students in-seat. That is the unfortunate reality of having students out for ten days due to COVID exposure or potential exposure. The program is designed to offer students who are quarantining with a broader experience than just receiving homework assignments.

The Wellness Coordinators at the secondary level are up and running. At the elementary level it has been a bit slower to get the positions at each grade level filled. A partially implemented plan offers challenges for teachers and students. Our special education population does not have a structured wellness plan in place. Under the current plan, special education students will have their services provided in a “back-fill” format. This means that IEP service hours will be provided outside of the school calendar. This same strategy is most likely going to be used for our ESL students. Currently, the Association is working with the District to develop a quarantining plan for our special student populations. More on this plan should be available soon.

A few questions have been raised about teacher responsibilities for quarantined students.

1. What responsibilities does the classroom teacher have if they have students who are quarantining? [At the secondary level, classroom teachers are responsible for putting assignments and materials on Schoology. At the elementary level, there are two levels of classroom teacher responsibilities. If there is a Wellness Coordinator, then the classroom teacher relinquishes instruction to the Wellness Coordinator. If there is no Wellness Coordinator for that grade level, then the classroom teacher is to provide the student with homework packets for the duration of the quarantine period.](#)
2. Does the classroom teacher need to maintain contact with the student and/or their parents? [Yes. If a parent or student reaches out to you during the quarantine period, the classroom teacher should maintain contact and provide information. This does not mean that the teacher is to supplement the quarantining students instructional support that the Wellness Coordinator is providing.](#)
3. Students who are quarantining will not necessarily be at the same level of comprehension or at the same pace as their classmates, so how do I support them when they return from their quarantine? [You should apply the same level of differential instruction as you would normally provide a student who requires additional support in achieving mastery of curricular content and skills.](#)
4. Will the student growth component of my evaluation be impacted due students being quarantined and missing instructional time? [No. This situation will need to be part of the conversation you have with your evaluator. Students who have out of the classroom for a duration of time should always be discussed when examining student growth data.](#)
5. As an elementary teacher, do I have to supply the Wellness Coordinator or student with materials? [If your regular practice is to post assignments and materials on Schoology you may continue to do so, if](#)

you do not post regularly on Schoology, that is fine too! The wellness coordinator may or may not request you to supply some materials.

COVID Procedures for Students:

The process for quarantining a student is a bit convoluted at times. Here is an attempt to clarify the process for everyone:

1. If a student tests positive for COVID, that student must quarantine for 10 days. This is calendar days and not 10 school days.
2. All siblings of the student who tested positive must also quarantine, even if they have a negative COVID test. The siblings are required to quarantine for 10 days due to exposure to their sibling who tested positive for COVID. In addition, the sibling of the student who tested positive must quarantine an **additional** 10 days to ensure that they are symptom free.
3. A positive COVID test for a parent or family member who resides with the student(s) will require the student to be quarantined for 20 days.
4. If the sibling tests positive for COVID at any point during this 20-day quarantine, then the sibling's actual quarantine status changes to a 10-day quarantine from their positive COVID test result date. The result is that the sibling could be quarantined for less than 20 days, or if the positive test result occurs late in their 20-day quarantine, the sibling could end out longer than 20 days.
5. Bottom line: A positive COVID test result will constitute a minimum 10-day quarantine/isolation period.
6. If a student (or staff member for that matter) is identified as a close contact in a classroom, they are issued a 10-day quarantine.
7. Remember that the family must report any positive test results. We are still functioning on an honor system.

EXCEPTION: The CDC/OCHD says that they can shorten that quarantine by getting a Covid test on day five or later. If they test negative, they can return after day seven of the quarantine. That means they could return no sooner than day eight of the quarantine.

EXCEPTION TO THE EXCEPTION: Siblings who are identified as close contacts, or anyone in the household, cannot return sooner because they have been continually exposed to the case. It is not just a one-time classroom exposure.

COVID Procedures for Staff:

The process for a staff member to be quarantined is a bit different:

1. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, there is a process of contact tracing that occurs in the building. Due to a lack of personnel at the Oakland County Health Department, building principals have been charged with the contact tracing procedures to ascertain who should be quarantined due to possible exposure to the individual who tested positive.
2. During the contact tracing procedure, a teacher may be asked whether they are vaccinated or not. A teacher does not need to divulge their vaccination status.
3. A teacher who is told that they need to quarantine is not charged their leave days for the isolation period.

4. A teacher, who contracts COVID from a verifiable source in their building, does not have to use their leave days.
5. A teacher, who is concerned about a case in their classroom, and are not required to quarantine due to contact tracing, may at their discretion take up to 10 days to self-quarantine/isolate. The teacher's leave bank will be charged for the days.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

All parent/teacher conferences are virtual. You may conduct the conferences from your workstation, or you may do them from home. The goal is to potentially maintain this virtual model for parent/teacher conferences moving forward. To that end, we must do our part to make sure that parents are satisfied with the experience. It goes without saying, since we are all professionals, that the key to success is to present a professional background without interruptions.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay connected.

In solidarity,

Tony

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