

December 6, 2020

Updated Quarantine Guidelines for K-12 Schools

After collaboration with the Wood County K-12 school leadership, Wood County Health Department (WCHD) is providing updated guidelines for quarantine in K-12 schools.

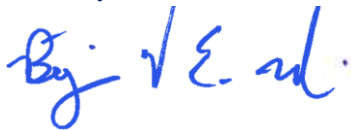
Like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH), we continue to strongly recommend a 14-day quarantine for people possibly exposed to COVID-19. This timeframe is maximally protective of public health.

Because teachers and other school personnel are considered essential staff, schools may opt for a shorter, 10-day quarantine, termed “Reduced Duration 1” in the ODH guidance, as long as the employee is symptom-free and able to **both** wear a mask **and** remain at least six (6) feet away from others at all times, including meals, for the remaining 4 days. Due to the challenges of consistently meeting these requirements at all times within the student body, we continue to require a 14-day quarantine for students.

At this time, WCHD does not accept the option of a 7-day quarantine following a negative test because shorter quarantine times increase risk of virus spread and would mean using testing resources that are already strained. We will continue to monitor cases, testing capacity and guidance from both the CDC and ODH. Based on the data, we will reevaluate these guidelines and will make revisions as appropriate.

This letter is to be reviewed in connection with the ODH guidance, which can be viewed at:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/covid-19-guidance-quarantine.pdf>.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Robison, MPH
Health Commissioner