

Dear SD 6 School Community,

On December 2, the CDC announced that they have changed their COVID related quarantine procedures. As you know, the prior procedure was a 14 day quarantine from last exposure to a positive case.

The new protocol is a 10 day quarantine with no symptoms and no COVID test. In this instance, the individual would return on the 11th day. The other scenario is a 7 day quarantine with no symptoms and a negative COVID test. The negative test must be done on the fifth, sixth, or seventh day after the exposure. If the test result doesn't come back by the end of seven days, you must quarantine until results come back, or until day 11. With the negative test and no symptoms, the individual can return on the 8th day. The test can either be a PCR test (which is primarily the test given at the hospital), or a rapid antigen test. Even though the quarantine period ends, individuals still need to self- monitor for symptoms through the original 14 day period.

At this time, the Flathead City County Health Department can no longer keep up with all of the contact tracing. District personnel, including administrators, office personnel, and nurses have all been trained and deputized to perform contact tracing duties. Families and individuals may hear from district personnel instead of hearing from the county health department for contact tracing.

If your child is currently out on quarantine and the new protocols impact their return date, please contact your child's school to verify the new return date.

Keep in mind that all protocols related to a positive COVID test remain the same which means that if someone tests positive for COVID there will still be a mandatory 10 day isolation period.

Additional new documents have been added to our website at [School District 6 Website](#).

The full description of the change in protocols can be found at [CDC website](#)

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we work through the evolving nature of this pandemic.

Dave Wick

Superintendent, Columbia Falls School District