

December 9, 2020

Montezuma Community Stakeholders,

As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times, our communication with the Montezuma Community is a top priority. As you may know, the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health have changed the timelines regarding quarantine and isolation situations around COVID-19. We work directly with Poweshiek County Public Health for contact tracing and quarantine time frames.

The Iowa Department of Health announced the following changes available at [Quarantine Timelines for Contacts of Persons with COVID-19 Infection](#). To clarify:

- If a student has close contact with a positive COVID-19 person, they can return to school after 10 full days of quarantine from last known contact with a positive individual **if they do not show symptoms** and if they choose not to be tested. In this scenario, exposed individuals would then be able to return on day 11 after exposure.
- If a student has close contact with a positive COVID-19 person, they can return to school after 7 full days of quarantine from last known contact with a positive individual **if they do not show symptoms** and if they have a negative test that is done no earlier than day 5 after exposure. Exposed persons wishing to use the “7 days with a confirmed negative test collected no earlier than day 5” option will need to secure their own testing, likely either through their own healthcare provider or Test Iowa. **A copy of the negative test will be required as documentation to be readmitted.** Exposed individuals would then be able to return on day 8 after exposure with a copy of the negative test result.
- If an exposed individual develops symptoms, they will need to complete the normal 14 day quarantine and consider testing. They will need to be isolated at home away from others until symptoms have improved and/or fever free for 24 hours, and at least 10 full days have gone by since the start of symptoms. As before, please notify their doctor and the school if this occurs.
- Regardless, exposed individuals will still be required to monitor for the development of symptoms through day 14 after exposure and will still be expected to follow social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines.
- Please remember, if any member of the household is being tested for symptomatic reasons and/or concerns of exposure, all other individuals should remain at home until test results are known. This is per CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health guidance.

We will continue to communicate changes and updates with you. We encourage parents to continue to monitor their children to see if they are exhibiting any symptoms. If your child shows any symptoms that are not normal for them, please contact your child’s provider or Nurse Hannah. Throughout this pandemic, please continue to wash hands frequently, stay home when sick, wear a mask if able, and help implement social distancing.

- [Evaluating Sick Students and Staff - Reopening Iowa's Schools Safely and Responsibly](#)