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Good Afternoon Phoenix CSD Families, Staff and Students,

As expected, we have seen a high number of positive COVID-19 cases across the country, in NYS and in our community this week. In a very short period of time, the CDC and NYSDOH have made many changes to the procedures we must follow. It is often hard to keep up with the changes as they are happening so fast. I will always do my best to provide you with changes to procedures as efficiently as possible, but please please know that what you read today, may again change by tomorrow.

I apologize for the length of this update, but I didn't want to leave anything out. Here are some updates from this week to keep you all informed:

- **COVID-19 Home Tests – What to do if you test positive? –**

Stay home! Do not return to school / work. Follow these procedures depending on where you live –

Oswego County Residents -

The Oswego County Department of Health (DOH) has created a form to collect information on **positive home tests only** (see attached document).

Families and staff should complete the form and send it **directly to the Oswego County DOH at the following email address - COVIDtestreporting@oswegocounty.com** .

The DOH will NOT be contacting families or staff. Families and staff will receive an isolation email once the information is input into the system and will also receive a release from isolation notice on the last day of isolation. Parents/guardians should register all close contacts using the link that is sent to them via text message from the state. If a parent or staff member does not have access to the internet or text messaging, they can call the COVID hotline (315-349-3330) and they will assist with contact entry.

The DOH is also *currently working on* an electronic reporting portal where the community can report positive home tests. This portal that will allow parents and staff to select a school and an automatic notification will go to the school in regards to that positive home test.

Onondaga County Residents –

The Onondaga County Department of Health has already created an at-home test submission portal. If you test positive with a home test, please submit your positive COVID-19 results online using the following link - <https://covid19.ongov.net/at-home-covid-test-results-screen/>

5-Day Isolation for anyone testing positive for COVID-19 – (effective 1/5/22) -

- **The isolation period has changed to 5 days (for most), where day 0 is day of symptoms starting or if no symptoms, the day the test was completed.**
 - **If no symptoms at the end of 5 days** or if symptoms are improving, the isolation ends and the person should wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days.
 - **Individuals who are unable to wear a well-fitting mask** for 5 days after a 5-day isolation should also follow the regular 10-day isolation.
- This new guidance applies to anyone currently in isolation, even before 1/5/22. If you have questions about an end of isolation date, feel free to contact your child's school. The Oswego County DOH informed me that they are working to get everyone released who is eligible.

5-Day Quarantine for anyone exposed to COVID-19 – (effective 1/5/22) -

- **If exposed to COVID-19, quarantine as follows, where day 0 is the last date of exposure:**
 - **If fully vaccinated** (with the booster at least 2 weeks before the first date of exposure) or not yet eligible for a booster, no quarantine is required but these individuals should wear a well-fitting mask while around others for 10 days after the last date of exposure.
 - **If not fully vaccinated** quarantine for 5 days and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days
 - **If possible, test for COVID-19 at day 5.**
 - **If symptoms appear, quarantine and seek testing.** In this situation, quarantine would end when the test is negative. If testing is not done, isolate according to the guidance for isolation.
 - This new guidance applies to anyone currently quarantined, even before 1/5/22. If you have questions about an end of isolation date, feel free to contact your child's school. The Oswego County DOH informed me that they are working to get everyone released who is eligible.
- **COVID-19 Updates –**
 - It is unclear what the near future will look like for us in terms of COVID-19, but I do think it is very important to always think ahead. While we very much hope to continue with in-person learning, I ***highly recommend*** the following:
 - Families – please have a plan in place should the district or a building have to switch to remote learning for a period of time.
 - Faculty and Staff – please be prepared should the district or a building have to switch to remote learning for a period of time.

If you are a student or staff and can't find a test, call one of our school nurses or the Superintendent's Office and we will do our best to get you an appointment at Pulaski Urgent Care (*as long as there are appointments still available*).

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact me or the Oswego County Department of Health at 315-349-3330.

I greatly appreciate your continued support of our school district and programs. I hope that you all have a great end to the week!

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Byrne

Superintendent of Schools



- @cbyrnepcsd