

## Rooks County School Districts' Update - September 17, 2021

One of the goals of our Rooks County School Districts is to keep our students and staff in school safely and to have them return to in-person instruction as quickly as possible during a quarantine period. Administrators in each district have been working with their school boards in coordination with Rooks County Health officials to develop options for families, students, and staff to make this happen.

We currently have 11 active cases of COVID-19 in the county, with a 2 week positivity rate of 19% as of 9/11/2021.

Students and staff who have been identified as close contact with a positive COVID case will have two options. They will be able to complete their time in quarantine at home or they will be able to utilize one of the KDHE strategies to potentially return to school sooner. Strategies the districts are currently reviewing include: "Test to Know", "Test to Stay", and "Test to Play".

The "Test to Know" gives staff and students the option to take a rapid test if he/she is having symptoms and would like to know if he/she is positive for COVID-19. The "Test to Stay" and "Test to Play" is for students and staff who have been identified as close contact and are required to be in quarantine. In this situation, students and staff will be able to take a rapid test if he/she so chooses. If they test negative, they will be able to remain in school and participate in extracurricular activities if they wear a mask.

***The following paragraphs provide additional information about the options available. If you have any questions, please reach out to your district's administrators.***

### Stay and Play after Covid Exposure

#### **Option 1**

Staff and/or parents of students have the choice of getting a rapid antigen test. This rapid antigen test will show results in 15 minutes. There is no cost for this test. This is an **OPTIONAL** test with parental consent. Staff and/or students will be **tested daily** during the quarantine period. If the antigen test is positive, the student or staff member must stay home and the health department will be notified.

If the antigen test is negative, the student or staff member may return to school for in-person learning and may participate in extracurricular activities and school-based events as long as they are asymptomatic. Masks will be required during this time frame. Our county health department requests that staff and/or students continue the community quarantine outside of school hours/activities.

#### **Option 1 (continued)**

Staff and students may qualify for "modified quarantine". This option will likely be available at the elementary level. In this situation, testing will NOT be required. However, masks WILL be required.

## **Option 2**

For those students and/or staff who do not want the antigen test, they must complete the required quarantine as set by our county health department and KDHE.

***Each district has spent a great deal of time developing their own guidelines regarding how the procedures will be conducted. No tests will be given without prior consent from the parent/guardian.***

### **Quarantine Guidelines for USD 270 2021-2022 School Year**

#### **Guidelines for Plainville Elementary Building**

If a student or staff member is identified by Rooks County Health Department for quarantine in the PES building that allows for a modified quarantine, the following procedures would be allowed:

- Students and Staff would be allowed to return to school immediately in a modified quarantine if they wear a mask for the quarantine period. The affected students and staff will follow modified quarantine guidelines for the duration of the quarantine.
- Parents may choose to opt out of the modified quarantine and keep their students home. They would receive their school work as per a normal absence.

#### **Guidelines for Plainville Junior and High School Building**

If a student or staff member is identified by Rooks County Health Department for quarantine in the PJH/PHS building, the following procedures would be allowed:

- Students and Staff that were identified would be allowed to return to school the following day if they receive a negative Rapid Test that morning and wear a mask. A negative Rapid Test would be required each day for the duration of the quarantine period and masking while indoors.
- Parents may choose to have their student stay home and receive their school work as per a normal absence.

USD 270 will revisit these guidelines if KDHE policies are modified in a way that has an impact on these guidelines.

The goal of USD 270 is to keep students and staff in school. Again, please reach out to an administrator if you have any questions.