



Kevin Polston
Superintendent of Schools

Office of Superintendent

Kentwood Public Schools
5820 Eastern Ave SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
Phone: (616) 455-4400

December 31, 2021

Dear KPS Families,

We hope that everyone has had a safe and happy holiday season! As we look forward to students and staff returning to school on Monday, January 3rd, here is an update regarding our COVID response plan.

KPS continues to be fully committed to providing in-person instruction each day. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we are working closely with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) as they provide guidance to our community. Thank you for your continued partnership with the district as we follow safety protocols that continue to make a positive difference in our community.

This week, in accordance with the recent update from the CDC, the KCHD updated guidelines for individuals that test positive, or are close contacts of a positive case. Please see the second page of this letter for the updated guidelines. KPS will implement these changes effective immediately.

As you know, across the country there are record levels of positive cases due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19. It is likely that the rapid spread of the Omicron variant will soon impact school operations. In light of this, the district has prepared contingency plans to keep schools open and as safe as possible. As information is available, and if district operational plans change, we will continue to provide you frequent updates and communicate any changes as soon as possible.

We also want to share a few key points from our latest safety strategies and protocols:

- We hope everyone who is eligible receives a vaccination. Evidence suggests those that are fully vaccinated (2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna), or those with the booster, have experienced milder symptoms. We encourage everyone to consult your healthcare provider to become vaccinated or boosted. <https://vaccinatewestmi.com/> for vaccine sites.
- Please have your child remain home if they exhibit symptoms associated with COVID-19. The most prominent symptoms of the Omicron variant are fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, and fatigue.
- If your child has been around someone who has COVID-19, or has symptoms, please consider having your child tested. Testing sites can be found here: <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/covid-19-testing.htm>
- Face coverings make a positive difference, and for that reason we will continue to require all individuals to use them during the school day and on school buses. We also strongly recommend face coverings for after school activities.
- The KPS school nursing staff has increased, and they are here to assist students and families as we navigate this pandemic.

Thank you for your partnership, your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times. We also appreciate our dedicated staff for their commitment to providing an excellent learning environment

throughout the pandemic. Together, we will continue to live out our vision of *Excellence and Equity in Education* at Kentwood Public Schools!

Go Falcons!



Kevin Polston

Kent County Health Department
December 28, 2021



Quarantine Guidance

Updated by CDC on 12/27/2021
This guidance does not supersede federal,
state, or local requirements.

If you test positive for COVID-19 (Isolation)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

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If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home