



December 7, 2020

Dear SCM Family,

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) released new guidance regarding options to reduce the length of quarantine for students and staff identified as a close contact¹ to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 on December 2, 2020.

These recommendations have since been endorsed by the [Indiana Department of Health \(IDOH\)](#) and the St. Joseph County Department of Health. As such, School City of Mishawaka (SCM) will follow this newly updated CDC guidance.

Any individual who is identified as a close contact will be excluded from the school building for a period of 7 to 14 calendar days. Students or employees must meet specific health and safety guidelines prior to returning to school/work in the building. Quarantine may conclude:

1. After 10 days (on Day 11) without testing AND the individual has not exhibited any symptoms
2. After 7 days (on Day 8) with proof of a negative test result from a PCR test (non-rapid test) collected on days 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period AND the individual has not exhibited any symptoms

If the student or employee develops symptoms at any point throughout quarantine, s/he must immediately self-isolate and may only return to the building after 10 days (on Day 11) from the day after symptoms began.

Additionally, any student or employee whose quarantine ends prior to Day 14 must continue all recommended preventative measures as follows:

- Wear a mask over the nose and mouth at all times (including during practice/games for student athletes)
- Conduct at-home, self-screening/monitoring for COVID-19 related symptoms daily
- Practice social distancing and avoid crowds throughout the full 14 days of quarantine

We believe these options to safely reduce quarantine periods will allow those students participating in in-person learning to return sooner, for families to return to their normal routines quicker, and for SCM to more efficiently staff our schools.

Wayne Barker
Superintendent of Schools

¹ Close contacts are defined as anyone within six feet or less for 15 or more minutes to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 over 24 hours. While wearing a facial covering/mask reduces the risk of transmission of the virus, it does not alter the definition of a close contact.