



## **OSDH Institutes Short-Term Policy Change for In-School Student Quarantine**

Beginning November 30, 2020 and until December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (“OSDH”) is amending existing policy to permit schools that are able and willing to follow specific guidelines to institute in-school quarantine of students who have been exposed to COVID-19 and are recommended or required to quarantine. This will provide flexibility to schools in determining how best to serve their students and community. Note that this policy is **OPTIONAL** — schools can choose to continue with existing policy.

Benefits of this policy change include the ability to continue to protect students and staff from COVID-19, while also providing a safe environment and resources needed for students to engage in distance learning during their quarantine period.

Additionally, this policy will allow assessment of the frequency of transmission of COVID-19 occurring among such students and provide data to inform future public health practice.

Below are specific requirements for schools that choose to implement in-school quarantine:

- Ensure availability of facilities that will permit housing of quarantined students in a socially-distanced environment and away from contact with non-quarantined students. Examples could include (but are not limited to) a gymnasium, auditorium, or cafeteria. The area must be dedicated exclusively to the housing of quarantined students during school hours. Use of the facility outside of school hours should be limited and only occur after thorough cleaning.
- Quarantined students shall remain in the dedicated quarantine space at all times during the school day except for breaks for restroom and outside time.
- Quarantined students shall maintain social distancing of **AT LEAST 6 feet** within the quarantine space (with greater distance strongly encouraged).
- Quarantined students shall be required to wear masks at all times except when eating.
- Quarantined students shall be tested repeatedly (at least on days 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 14 of quarantine, but more frequently if schools choose), using the Binax Now rapid diagnostic test.
  - Tests will be provided to the schools by the OSDH.
  - Schools must have a CLIA-waiver number and appropriately trained personnel to collect, perform, and interpret the test.
  - Schools must report results of the tests to the OSDH daily.
  - Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 (either at school or via a different test performed by another qualified testing facility) shall immediately enter isolation and is no longer permitted in the in-school quarantine program.
- Students in the in-school quarantine program are not permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities, ride buses to or from school, attend after-school events, or be in any other situations where contact with non-quarantined persons is likely.



- Schools may provide opportunity for students to get outside multiple times a day. Social distancing among the quarantined students is still required.
- Parents of quarantined students must be informed of the requirements of the program and sign an agreement for their student to attend.

**Any school choosing to adopt this policy MUST NOTIFY THEIR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION to ensure ability to comply with all requirements.** After December 23<sup>rd</sup>, data from all testing will be collated and examined for frequency of students becoming infected during the quarantine period. This information can then be used to guide policy for return to school in Winter/Spring semester 2021.

