

**Memo from Brad Blackman, Superintendent of Chaffee R-2 School District**  
**Governor Parson Press Conference -- Updated Guidance for Close Contacts and Exposures in School Settings**  
**(As of 11/12/20)**

Chaffee Families,

I wanted to share some information from a press conference held by Missouri Governor, Mike Parson, on Thursday morning (11/12/20). The Governor has announced from the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) modified guidelines for determining close contacts and assessing exposures in school settings. Under the updated guidance, proper mask wearing may now prevent individuals from being identified as close contacts in K-12 schools that have implemented a mask mandate. This means that if both individuals at school -- the person diagnosed with COVID-19 and the person exposed to the positive case -- have masks on and are wearing them correctly, the individual exposed does not need to quarantine.

This is a game changer for the schools as we can now keep in-school exposed students from being quarantined. Students that have out-of-school exposures and have been told to quarantine from local health departments will have to continue to quarantine.

Effective Monday, November 16th, the Chaffee School District will implement a mask mandate for all staff and students PK-12. If you are currently under quarantine from an in-school exposure and are not exhibiting any symptoms, you may return to school.

You can read more about the Governor's Press Conference by going to the school website where there will be links posted.

Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding during these trying times.

Brad Blackman, Chaffee R-2 Schools Superintendent

*The Departments of Health and Senior Services and Elementary and Secondary Education have modified shared guidance for determining close contacts and assessing exposures in school settings. Under the updated guidance, proper mask wearing may now prevent individuals from being identified as close contacts in K-12 schools that have implemented a mask mandate. This means that if both individuals at school – the person diagnosed with COVID-19 and the person exposed to the positive case – have masks on and are wearing them correctly, the individual exposed does not need to quarantine.*

- ✦ Read more details in the news release: [Governor Parson Announces Changes in State's K-12 School Quarantine Guidance](#).
- ✦ Review the updated [Missouri School Reopening and Operating Guidance](#) FAQ document here.
- ✦ The guidance document update includes a visual aid on pg. 15 that is helpful in understanding this modified guidance. View the printable ["Wear a Mask. Stay in School"](#) PDF here.

**Wear a mask. Stay in school.**

Missouri EDUCATION  
Missouri DHSS  
Department of Health and Senior Services

**COVID-19 School Scenarios**  
*with no documented transmission in the classroom setting*

EVERYONE MASKED	CLOSE CONTACTS MASKED
When a masked person tests positive and those exposed are wearing masks	When an unmasked person tests positive and those exposed are wearing masks
COVID + Close Contacts	COVID + Close Contacts
ISOLATE SELF-MONITOR NO QUARANTINE	ISOLATE QUARANTINE

CLOSE CONTACTS UNMASKED	NO ONE MASKED
When a masked person tests positive and those exposed are not wearing masks	When an unmasked person tests positive and those exposed are not wearing masks
COVID + Close Contacts	COVID + Close Contacts
ISOLATE SELF-MONITOR NO QUARANTINE	ISOLATE QUARANTINE

**CLOSE CONTACT:** Someone who was within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection).

**SELF-MONITOR:** Perform a self-check or be monitored daily for symptoms of COVID-19 over a 14-day period. Contact your health care provider with questions about symptoms.

**QUARANTINE:** The practice of separating individuals who have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease.

**ISOLATION:** The practice of separating people diagnosed with COVID-19 from others who are not sick to prevent further exposures and/or spread of the disease.

<https://desec.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf> November 12, 2020