



GALENA UNIFIED SCHOOLS DISTRICT #499

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January 18, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, the current surge in the omicron variant is creating immense pressure on our schools and staff members as we work to keep classrooms staffed and in-person learning possible.

To help alleviate some of the pressure on our schools and because of the high probability individuals in public spaces are subject to widespread exposure and transmission, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), along with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), support schools implementing a 30-day temporary suspension on all contact tracing activities.

What does this mean for you as parents and guardians? Beginning Wednesday, January 19, our district will no longer provide notification of specific incidents of exposure to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

If you believe your child has been exposed to a positive case, either at school or elsewhere, please contact the school and we can develop a plan for COVID testing that monitors and ensures safe participation in school activities. Continue to monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days after the exposure.

If your child is symptomatic, have him or her tested with a diagnostic test. We will have tests available at the school. Do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they test positive. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to stay home from school for at least five days and be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before leaving home. After that, individuals who test negative on Day 6 or after may resume normal activities but should wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors and outdoors for an additional five days. Please notify your school if your child tests positive.

If you have any questions regarding this change to school contact tracing protocols, please contact your child's principal. A brief summary of these changes can be found on our website at www.usd499.org. To learn more about this guidance change, you may also visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/283/Education-K-12>

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this challenging time for our schools and communities. We will continue to keep you informed as guidance changes are announced.

Sincerely,

Trey Moeller
Superintendent, USD 499