



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2020

## **Possible COVID-19 exposure at school facilities in OK County**

The Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) reminds parents of children returning to in-person instruction to plan for possible school and/or classroom closures for quarantine. Multiple school districts returned to in-person instruction today, Aug. 13, and OCCHD has been notified of possible exposure at school facilities in Oklahoma County. The impacted schools are assessing the situation and determining how to move forward for the safety of students and staff. OCCHD is proceeding with its standard process involving case investigation of an infectious disease in a school setting.

OCCHD reminds the public that COVID-19 is still widespread across Oklahoma County. If multiple children or school staff within a school test positive for COVID-19, the school could possibly close.

### **OCCHD Cautions Parents to Remember COVID-19 Prevention, Mitigation and Isolation Requirements**

- **Don't send your children to school if they are sick.**
- **If you're waiting on a test result for your child, particularly if your child is sick or has been exposed to another positive case, you must isolate your child at home until the test result comes back negative.**
- **If your child has been exposed to a positive case, within or outside of school, they still must quarantine for 14 days (even if they receive a negative test).**
- **If the child's test result comes back positive, do not send the child to school, even if the child has no symptoms. The child must be isolated at home (an adult must be present at home with a young child who is isolated) for at least 10 days (from the date they were tested). Even after the 10 days, the child must be fever free for at least 24 hours and have improved symptoms.**
- **If you have received a positive result from a lab, do not wait on a contact tracer to call you. You must isolate at home.**
- **Parents may need to consider the feasibility of teleworking, taking leave from work, or identifying someone who can supervise your child in the event of school building closures or quarantine.**

## **Local school districts have plans in place**

OCCHD has worked with many local school districts, and most districts have plans in place to reduce the spread of the virus. Even still, transmission of the virus is still possible so it is critical parents remember to teach their kids about safe practices such as wearing a mask, washing hands, not sharing personal items and keeping their distance from others when possible during the school day. A majority of COVID-19 positive cases do not have any symptoms, so it is important for children and adults alike to practice these prevention steps to be protected from exposure to COVID-19 and help reduce the spread of the virus in our community.

### ***About Oklahoma City-County Health Department***

*Established in 1910, Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to protecting health, promoting wellness, and preventing disease to ensure a healthy future for the Oklahoma County-area community. OCCHD was one of the first public health departments in the nation to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information, please visit [www.occhd.org](http://www.occhd.org).*