



CRAWFORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT



August 13, 2020

COVID-19 Information for Parents, Students, and School Staff

As the school year begins, we would like to outline the process and procedures our office and your school would follow, should there be an exposure to COVID-19 in a school setting.

COVID-19 is primarily transmitted through respiratory droplets when an infected person talks, coughs, or sneezes. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after an exposure. As more cases are being confirmed across Ohio, it is important to approach potential exposures to COVID-19 in a practical, yet vigilant, manner.

If an exposure to COVID-19 has occurred in which a student or school staff member is identified as a COVID-19 case, Crawford County Public Health will work with school administrators and school nurses to identify close contacts, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. If your child is identified as a close contact, Crawford County Public Health will notify you directly and ask that your child be quarantined for 14 days from the date of possible exposure. Crawford County Public Health will provide you with guidance on how to self-monitor for symptoms for the duration of the quarantine period. If your child remains symptom-free for the duration of the quarantine period, they may return to school at that time. In the event that your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you will be requested to contact your medical provider.

If you do not hear from Crawford County Public Health after an exposure has occurred at your school, that indicates neither you nor your child were identified as a close contact and do not need to be quarantined.

Crawford County Public Health encourages you and your family to follow the CDC recommendations for best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.

- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.
- Wear a facial covering in public settings.

Preventing the spread of this virus requires the vigilance of everyone at school, at home, and out in the community. As we learn more about COVID-19, the guidance changes accordingly. For current information on COVID-19, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate M. Siefert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kate M. Siefert, MPH, RS
Health Commissioner