



Dear Vicksburg Community Schools Families,

The highly infectious COVID-19 Omicron variant continues to cause many infections in Kalamazoo County. The increased COVID-19 caseload presents challenges for VCS schools to perform effective contact tracing to reduce COVID-19 spread in our settings and community. Acknowledging this situational change, the KCHCSD has provided guidance regarding contact tracing, case notification and testing for staff and student exposures in K-12 settings.

Beginning tomorrow, January 27th, VCS will implement the following protocol:

- Families will be notified by email when we have a confirmed positive case in their child's classrooms or building. All positive cases will continue to be reported on the [Dashboard](#).
- Due to the rapid transmission of the Omicron variant, we strongly recommend all those with a positive case in their classrooms or building to wear a mask for 10 days and also monitor their symptoms during that time.
- Close contacts will no longer be entered into automatic quarantine or test to stay protocols.
- Symptomatic students are required to stay home.
 - Those symptoms include: sore throat, congestion, fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, or stomach issues.
 - Students must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and other symptoms resolved before returning to school.
- Moving forward, VCS will only test on a case by case basis and subject to availability of testing materials and parental consent. Please contact your building office if you have questions regarding testing protocols moving forward.

Buildings will continue to test students who are currently in the test to stay protocol for the remainder of this week (Friday 1/28/22).

These updated guidelines do not change the 5 day isolation for those who have tested positive for COVID-19. Students who have tested positive must isolate for 5 days until symptom free or symptoms improve. Upon return to school, students must wear a mask for 5 additional days.

Unvaccinated students who are exposed in a household setting must quarantine for 5 days and can return to school on day 6. Masks must be worn for 5 additional days.

We recognize that this is a very tough time in the pandemic and guidelines are ever-changing.

We are asking that everyone do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. While it is a personal choice, we very strongly urge all students and staff to wear masks in our buildings. VCS will continue to strongly recommend all eligible students and staff to be vaccinated and to receive the booster if eligible.

Regards,

Keevin O'Neill, Superintendent