

October 2021

Dear Sheridan Families,

Since September 10, we have had over 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases among staff and students. Each confirmed case sets in motion a series of steps before we determine who to quarantine. Staff make the difficult phone calls to families, noting the dates of the quarantine. Please help us reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the number of students in quarantine by keeping your children home when they have any of the following symptoms: 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, upset stomach or abdominal pain.

It is also important to keep children home from school when you are waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test. In some cases, parents report having a negative rapid test but then 2-3 days later get a positive test from the medical office.

Students should also stay home if another member of the household has a confirmed case of COVID-19. This would be considered a quarantine. Remember that a quarantine is not just from school. A quarantine means that the person in quarantine should stay home and not attend any gatherings outside the home. This includes local football games and volleyball matches.

Some students who are in quarantine later become symptomatic and test positive for COVID-19. This tells us that the quarantine process worked, reducing the spread of COVID-19.

If you have a child with a positive case or have questions about the quarantine, please call this Sheridan District number: 971-261-6964. Leaving a message on this number will generate an alert email to several staff members.

Recently, the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education sent this recommendation for the month of October:

Families with school-age children and educators should limit gatherings and non-essential activities with people from other households to the extent possible. If you are visiting people from another household, you should wear a mask, maintain a physical distance of 6 feet, and keep activities outdoors as much as possible.

Staff and students are working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools open. Thank you for working with us as we navigate a challenging school year.

Respectfully,

Dorie Vickery, Ed. D
Superintendent