

Dear Parents:

During this last week, we have received advice from EpiXpert that we will be shifting protocols on daily attestation based on reviewing the newest literature, our experience so far, and following discussions after the most recent outbreak. The following represents the current practice and medical advice gathered through recent research and published in sanitary guidelines.

Starting Monday, September 7, 2020:

- The OK4School app will reduce the temperature threshold to 37.5C for exclusion from school (originally 37.8). A person's temperature continues to be a key symptom that we have to watch and, in kids, we may need to watch for a lower value according to some recent investigations. However, we should remember that cases in children will also be milder and often hard to identify except through our testing regime.
- On the app we will reduce the number of symptoms to just four:
 - non-productive dry cough
 - serious unusual tiredness
 - loss of taste or smell
 - serious muscle aches and chills

These are reported in the majority of cases, other symptoms are rarer, and there are dozens of unusual symptoms that can't help us in managing under our STOP protocol. Our symptom survey for the most common symptoms in partnership with testing is the current best approach and four key symptoms in addition to temperature will be easier for all of us to manage. *Note: a runny nose is still a very rare symptom for COVID as noted in research and has not been part of the survey. Typical colds start as a runny nose and progress to a wet/productive cough, usually without fever. A wet/productive cough related to a cold is not concerning, but you should seek advice from your primary care physician if it becomes persistent and more than a day or two in duration.*

- Reduce the additional quarantine after the resolution of symptoms (see above) from 72 to 24 hours (unless otherwise recommended by your primary care physician) before scheduling retesting. Retest in drive-thru format (main entrance) upon return and wait for results (30 minutes) before returning to class. Most of our cases will be colds and flu. If the case turns out to be COVID, we will definitely detect it in our re-entry test after 24 hours.
- Introduce similar quarantine for siblings of those with fever or symptoms. All siblings of the symptomatic child should stay home until 24 hours after the resolution of symptoms in the symptomatic child. The sibling quarantine will be resolved as soon as the symptomatic child is cleared by testing (see above).
- Please also note that quarantine should be applicable in case symptoms are detected among any other household members. We rely on your reporting of such instances via OK4school. In that instance, the same rule applies for waiving quarantine (negative test of the symptomatic household member).

For confirmed COVID cases, we have settled on the following for reentry criteria:

- 10 days after first symptoms OR after the first positive test (if no symptoms recorded), **AND**
- 24 hours after resolution of any remaining fever (no medication), **AND**
- Other symptoms improving significantly (except the loss of sense of taste or smell which may persist for weeks/months), **AND**
- Testing upon reentry.

Despite a high rate of false positives for recovered patients who are not infectious, testing upon reentry would still be required. Students who have recovered would be monitored for potential false positives and parents, along with primary care providers, would be kept informed. These test results would not necessarily exclude a recovered child from school.