

Dear Parent, Guardian and Staff Members,

We are so happy to have our wonderful Sarita students back in school after the Christmas Break! As you know, there has once again been an increase in COVID-19 and variant cases in our communities. We have updated our district's protocols that we have set in place at this time. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our nurse, Mrs. Lupita De Luna, or the front office.

## **Sarita Elementary COVID-19 Protocols**

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Per Governor Abbott's executive order, face coverings (masks) are OPTIONAL for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings will not be required for staff, students or visitors. However, an individual may choose to wear a mask if desired, and additional masks will be available in the front office. **If your child has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, we are STRONGLY recommending they wear their mask at school for at least 5 days after LAST close contact with that person.**

### **COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES**

If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, please contact the school nurse as soon as possible. Parents should not send students to school who have tested positive or who are symptomatic.

When the school district receives confirmation that a student or staff member who has been on campus or at school activities during his/her infectious period has tested positive for COVID-19, a notification will be sent out to the entire school campus (staff and parents).

The following CDC guidelines will be considered when dealing with each individual case in our school.

### **Ending isolation for people who have COVID-19 and have symptoms**

*If you have COVID-19 and have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days. To calculate your 5-day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed. You can leave isolation after 5 full days.*

- You can end isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
- You should continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of your 5-day isolation period. If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to isolate for a full 10 days. Avoid people who are [immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease](#), and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. Continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#). Contact your healthcare provider if you have questions.
- Do not travel during your 5-day isolation period. After you end isolation, avoid travel until a full 10 days after your first day of symptoms. If you must travel on days 6-10, wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when you are around others for the entire duration of travel. If you are unable to wear a mask, you should not travel during the 10 days.
- Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask, such as restaurants and some gyms, and avoid eating around others at home and at work until a full 10 days after your first day of symptoms.

If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an [antigen test](#)<sup>1</sup> towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation). If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10. If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public until day 10. Follow additional recommendations for masking and restricting travel as described above.

<sup>1</sup>As noted in the [labeling for authorized over-the counter antigen tests external icon](#): Negative results should be treated as presumptive. Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions, including infection control decisions. To improve results, antigen tests should be used twice over a three-day period with at least 24 hours and no more than 48 hours between tests.

Note that these recommendations on ending isolation **do not** apply to people with severe COVID-19 or with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). See section below for recommendations for when to end isolation for these groups.

## Ending isolation for people who test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms

If you test positive for COVID-19 and never develop [symptoms](#), isolate for at least 5 days. Day 0 is the day of your positive viral test (based on the date you were tested) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for your positive test. You can leave isolation after 5 full days.

- If you continue to have no symptoms, you can end isolation after at least 5 days.
- You should continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to isolate for 10 days. Avoid people who are [immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease](#), and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- If you develop [symptoms](#) after testing positive, your 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations above for [ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms](#).
- Do not travel during your 5-day isolation period. After you end isolation, avoid travel until 10 days after the day of your positive test. If you must travel on days 6-10, wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when you are around others for the entire duration of travel. If you are unable to wear a mask, you should not travel during the 10 days after your positive test.
- Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask, such as restaurants and some gyms, and avoid eating around others at home and at work until 10 days after the day of your positive test.

If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an [antigen test](#)<sup>1</sup> towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10. If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public until day 10. Follow additional recommendations for masking and restricting travel described above.

<sup>1</sup>As noted in the [labeling for authorized over-the-counter antigen tests external icon](#): Negative results should be treated as presumptive. Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions, including infection control decisions. To improve results, antigen tests should be used twice over a three-day period with at least 24 hours and no more than 48 hours between tests

Those who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 - 10 days from the onset of symptoms, be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and have significant improvement in symptoms. Those who suspect they could possibly have COVID-19 should take a test as soon as possible and isolate until test results are received. Isolation can end after Day 5 or Day 10 without testing depending on the circumstance and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and believes the test was a false positive and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or (b) take a subsequent COVID-19 PCR acute infection test (at a physician's office or approved testing location) at least 24 hours after the positive test and provide a negative test result on that subsequent test.

### **ABSENCES**

If a student must isolate after testing positive for COVID-19, the school/teacher will provide makeup work in a similar manner as for students absent for other reasons.

### **CLEANING/SANITATION PROTOCOLS**

Frequent cleaning and sanitation will support a healthy learning environment for students and staff. KCWCSD will continue with cleaning and sanitation protocols in the building, around campus, and on buses. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings along with opportunities to wash hands frequently.

If a student or employee has a health-related issue or concern, please contact the school nurse, Mrs. De Luna at 361-294-5381 Option 2.

Thank you!

Mrs. KristenTinsley

Mrs. Lupita De Luna, R.N.