



December 4, 2020

Dear Seward Parents/Guardians,

At Seward Public Schools we had one of our better weeks with the number of positive and student quarantines related to Covid-19. Our positivity rate of students and staff was 0.24% this week. This percentage equates to 4 students/staff testing positive out of 1700 students and staff. We had 2.41% of our students/staff out on quarantine or isolation. The Four Corners Risk Dial is at 3.31 for next week, which is a little higher than the week before.

The governor's risk dial based on the hospital bed capacity within our state is still in orange. Today the hospital bed occupancy is at 845 and we hope we continue to see a downward trend in hospitalizations across our state. The governor also put out a new DHM, which will change the duration of quarantine from 14 to 10 days. Students who have had close contact with a person testing positive may take a COVID test on or after day five and based on a negative outcome, may return to school on day 8 of quarantine if the student is not exhibiting any symptoms. I have included the details of these changes below along with a frequently asked questions document.

Outline of Changes:

Options to discontinue quarantine earlier than 14-days:

- Quarantine may discontinue **without testing** under the following conditions:
 - At least ten (10) days have passed since close contact exposure **AND**
 - No COVID-19 symptoms have developed and the person self-monitors for COVID-19 symptoms and wears a facial covering through day 14 since last close contact.
- Quarantine may discontinue **with testing** under the following conditions:
 - At least seven (7) days have passed since close contact exposure, no COVID-19 symptoms have developed **AND**
 - Results of a diagnostic specimen test (molecular or antigen) is negative that was collected no earlier than five (5) days since last close contact exposure **AND**
 - The person self-monitors for COVID-19 symptoms and wears a facial covering through day 14 since last close contact.

To return to school on day eight (8) the school will need a negative test result with your child's name on the results that shows the test date was taken on day five (5) or later of the quarantine and shows that the test was negative.

Please continue to avoid the Three C's.

1. Crowded Places. Avoid gathering in groups where you can't maintain 6-feet distance from others.
2. Close Contact. Wear a mask or maintain 6-feet distance when you're with people you don't live with.
3. Confined Spaces. Avoid enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

I hope everyone has a great weekend and can enjoy this fall-like weather in December.

Sincerely,

Josh Fields

Dr. Josh Fields
Superintendent