



Barry County Health Department  
65 Main, PO Box 207  
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www.barrycountyhealth.com

### *Modified Quarantine within the School Setting*

In light of growing evidence that suggests the low risk of COVID-19 transmission among children, as well as guidance from state authorities, the Barry County Health Department will allow strict modified quarantine procedures in K-12 schools under limited circumstances. This means in some circumstances, children may continue to go to school during their quarantine period, despite being identified as a close contact to someone with COVID-19.

School districts that choose to adopt these guidelines may implement the new policies immediately. It will be up to school districts to determine whether they will change their processes, and if so, how to implement those changes. Schools may adopt stricter guidelines, if they choose.

Strict modified quarantine will only be permitted among children in schools where a masking mandate has been adopted by the school board. Additionally, this will exclusively extend to the classroom only—not to outside activities or other circumstances.

There are several conditions that must be met for students to be eligible for modified quarantine:

- Schools must adopt and enforce a masking mandate for everyone without a medical exemption.
- Masks must be worn at all times. Face shields DO NOT count as a mask. Form fitting masks and gaiters must have two (2) layers of protection.
- School environment must have significant mitigation strategies in place. Classrooms must be designed to limit spread and maximize physical distancing. Increased hand hygiene activities must also be in place.
- Modified quarantine will only apply to children in the school setting where both the infected individual and the close contact were masked at the time of contact.
- A procedure for screening for COVID-19 and immediate isolation of anyone with symptoms must be in place.
- Students in classrooms with more than one positive case linked to classroom spread are NOT eligible for modified quarantine, and standard quarantine practices will be used until there is a minimum of 14 days without additional cases. The Barry County Health Department should be consulted in making this decision.

When an individual is identified as a positive COVID-19 case, close contacts will be identified. This includes anyone who has been within six (6) feet for a cumulative 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period during the infectious period. When the above criteria are met, modified quarantine may be used.

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Modified quarantine allows for a student to continue to attend school. The following must occur for identified direct contacts:

- This modified quarantine only creates an exception for attendance at school. The student must still quarantine at home from other activities. Student may not leave their home for school associated sports, extracurricular activities, or any other activities or places outside of the school setting.
- Mask must be worn at all times, except while eating or drinking.
- If mask is removed, the student must be a minimum of six (6) feet from others.
- Student cannot participate in any activity in which a mask cannot be worn.
- School will monitor for symptoms daily

If the student develops any symptoms of COVID-19, they should be immediately isolated and sent home. Testing for COVID-19 may be recommended.

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