

Parents and Guardians,

COVID-19 UPDATE: The Mississippi Achievement School District was notified today of three staff members and one student positive COVID-19 test results. Contact tracing has been completed and anyone in close contact (someone within less than 6 feet for 15 minutes cumulative throughout the day) with the persons has been notified. 20 students are quarantined.

If you were notified, your child will need to quarantine for 14 days\* from the last known contact with the individuals. While quarantining your child may not attend school or any school activities. However, they should continue working digitally in order to be counted present.

***The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continues to strongly encourage a 14-day quarantine period for close contacts to individuals who have COVID-19, especially household contacts. However, MSDH does provide the following acceptable alternative quarantine options:***

**10 Day Option:**

Close contacts can end quarantine after 10 days if they have monitored for symptoms daily and had no symptoms during the entire 10-day period.

**7 Day Plus Test Option:**

If testing is available, close contacts who have remained asymptomatic for 7 days and who have a negative PCR test collected on day 5, 6, or 7 can discontinue quarantine after 7 days. Quarantine must be at least 7 days after exposure regardless of a negative test.

Persons can discontinue quarantine at these time points only if the following criteria are also met:

- No symptoms of COVID-19 at any point during the quarantine period; and,
- Continue to monitor for symptoms for a full 14 days: and,
- Continue to wear masks and practice social distancing at all times for a full 14 days.
- If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and seek testing for COVID-10,
- Remember, a negative test collected prior to day 5 cannot be used to shorten the quarantine period.

This makes 54 total reported staff member positive cases and 19 positive student cases in the District. The state does not require Mississippi schools to inform the public when teachers and students test positive for COVID-19. The mASD has made the decision to report this information to you. Please keep in mind that other schools not making public announcements does not mean they do not have positive cases.

**Updated: 01/22/2021 at 2:40pm**