



Unified Government Public Health Department
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January 5, 2021

Re: Wyandotte County school COVID-19 protocols adjusted to keep more students in classrooms

Dear school faculty, staff, students, and families:

As of January 2021, we are adjusting our local health order regarding schools to allow more flexibility and to keep more students in classrooms. These changes are based on public health data and ongoing collaboration with Wyandotte County superintendents. Changes in the new health order include:

- **Relaxed quarantine procedures** when there is a known case of COVID-19 in a classroom: Instead of quarantining the entire classroom or “cohort,” only the students sitting directly next to, in front of, or behind the student with COVID-19 will need to quarantine.
- **More specific mask guidance** for teachers and students:
 - Educators and staff are strongly encouraged to wear N95 or KN95 masks. This is more effective at protecting teachers/staff if there is a COVID-19 case in their classroom. In some cases, it may mean they do not have to quarantine.
 - Students must wear either a paper mask or a cloth mask with at least 2 layers of fabric. Multiple layers of fabric are needed to make the mask effective at reducing the spread of the virus. Bandanas or single-layer gaiters are not allowed.
- **Elementary schools may now seat small groups of students in “pods”**
 - A classroom cohort may be divided into groups or “pods” with 4-5 students each. These students may sit together closer than six feet apart, while wearing masks at all times.
 - Each pod must be at least six feet away from other pods.
- **Middle and high school students may now make a limited number of classroom changes** throughout the day (each student may go to up to four classrooms)
 - This means most students will be part of up to four classroom cohorts.
 - It is recommended that students involved in athletics stay in a single classroom cohort with their teammates.

Thank you for your help protecting Wyandotte County students, educators, staff, and families from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Dr. K. Allen Greiner, Chief Medical Officer
Unified Government Public Health Department

Dr. Erin Corriveau, Deputy Medical Officer
Unified Government Public Health Department