

# BRITTON-HECLA SCHOOL DISTRICT 45-4

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*The mission of the Britton-Hecla School District is to promote a positive, challenging and safe environment for every student.*

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Quarantine Protocols

Parents and Guardians,

The Britton-Hecla School Board met on Nov. 9, 2020, and has approved some changes to our existing quarantine protocols. The changes were made to try to get students back into the classroom sooner, while also respecting medical guidance and research, which supports that a majority of individuals will develop COVID symptoms within 5 to 6 days after close contact with an infected individual. After the 6<sup>th</sup> day, it is highly unlikely that an individual will show symptoms or contract the virus, which is the foundation for the changes below.

Changes to Quarantine Requirements are as follows:

### Close Contacts

Students who are identified as a close contact will now be required to quarantine for 7 days since last contact with a COVID positive individual, which is a change from the 14 days originally mandated. After 7 days, if the student is asymptomatic (showing no symptoms and not on any medication) that student can return to school as long as they are wearing a mask the remainder of the 14 day period. Please note: If you will not agree to wear a mask, you will not be allowed back to school until the completion of the 14-day wait period.

Example: Individual was in contact with a COVID positive person on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. That student now becomes a “close contact” and the 7 days starts from last contact with that individual (Nov. 10). If after 7 days, with no symptoms, students will be allowed to return as long as they are willing to wear a mask the remainder of the 14 days.

### COVID Positive Individual in the Household

If a student is living in a household with an individual that has tested positive for COVID, that student must isolate for the same 10 days as the COVID positive individual in the home, before they can start their 7 day isolation as a “close contact.” However, if the student can successfully isolate from the infectious individual in the home, their 7-day quarantine can begin on the last day of contact with the infected person. Reasoning is that the last contact with the infected person is considered to be the last day of the 10 days, and thus the close contact is required to quarantine an additional 7 days after that. If after 7 days, without symptoms and without medication, that student may return to school providing they wear a mask the remainder of the 14 days.

Example #1: Dad has tested positive for COVID and is living in the same household. He is required to quarantine for 10 days. Students A, B, and C live in the same household and must quarantine the 10 days as well. After the 10 days are done, Students A, B, and C now start the 7 days requirement as a “close contact” for a total of 17 days.

Example #2: Dad has quarantined for 10 days and is now out of quarantine. Students A, B, and C are on day 4 of the 7 day quarantine for “close contact” and now Student B develops symptoms and tests positive for COVID. Students A and C now reset, and now have to serve 10 days with Student B, and again serve 7 days as a “close contact” with no symptoms and no medication before they may return to school.

I hope this helps clarify the new guidance adopted by the Board and Administration. If you should have any further questions please contact your building principal or myself for clarification.

Thank you for your patience and understanding,

Steve Benson-Superintendent



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