



## COVID-19 FAQ: IN-SCHOOL QUARANTINE

**Q: Why is the state Health Department making an in-school quarantine option available for schools?**

A: The Oklahoma State Department of Health [interim policy](#) has three stated goals:

- Offer an opportunity for schools to make distance learning more effective and reduce lost instruction time.
- Collect data about what's happening in schools with regard to positive cases and quarantines.
- Accomplish the two previous goals while minimizing risk to students, teachers, staff and families.

**Q: What districts are eligible?**

A: School districts must consult with their county health department in determining whether they can meet all guidelines to offer in-school quarantine. This includes districts in Oklahoma and Tulsa counties. The district's regional accreditation officer will monitor the program.

**Q: What is the timeline/approval process?**

This is a limited-time, voluntary opportunity for districts through Dec. 23, and health officials will review data before deciding whether a similar option will be available next semester. County health officials will assist districts with completing the process to offer in-school quarantine.

**Q: What guidelines must districts follow to offer in-school quarantine for some or all students?**

A: The state Health Department has established the following guidelines for districts that want to offer in-school quarantine. A checklist from the state Health Department can be downloaded [here](#):

- Availability of facilities that will permit housing of quarantined students in a socially distanced environment, and away from contact with non-quarantined students and staff. Examples could include (but not limited to) a gymnasium, auditorium, or cafeteria. The area must be dedicated exclusively to the housing of quarantined students during school hours. Use of the facility outside of school hours should be limited and follow thorough cleaning.
- Quarantined students shall remain in the space at all times during the school day except for breaks for restroom and outside time.
- Quarantined students will maintain social distancing of AT LEAST 6 feet within the quarantine space (with greater distance strongly encouraged).
- Quarantined students will be required to wear masks at all times except when eating
- Quarantined students will be tested repeatedly (at least on days 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 14 of quarantine, but more frequently if schools choose), using the Binax Now rapid diagnostic test.
  - Tests will be provided to the schools by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.
  - Schools must have a CLIA-waiver number, and appropriately trained personnel to collect, perform, and interpret the test. (A Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment waiver allows school districts to conduct testing and requires reporting of results).
  - Schools must report results of the tests to the Oklahoma State Department of Health daily.
  - Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 (either at school, or a different test performed by another qualified testing facility) shall immediately enter isolation and is no longer be permitted in the in-school quarantine program.
- Students in the in-school quarantine program are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities; ride buses to or from school; attend after-school events; or be in any other situations where contact with non-quarantined persons is likely.
- Schools must be able to provide personnel to supervise students in quarantine. This supervision does not need to include instruction; students will be engaged in distance learning. However, it will require appropriate adult supervision to ensure any student who becomes ill can receive appropriate care.
- Schools need to provide an opportunity for students to get outside multiple times a day. This time should not permit interaction among quarantined students- social distancing is still required. However, it should allow for unmasked time and some degree of individual physical activity.

- Parents of quarantined students must be informed of the requirements of the program, and sign an agreement for their student to attend.

**Q: What if some or all of the school sites in my district are in remote learning or students are attending school in-person on a staggered schedule?**

A: School districts can offer in-school quarantine even if most learning is happening remotely or if in-person learning is offered for less than a full week if the guidelines are met.

**Q: Does my district have to offer in-school quarantine to every student who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at school?**

A: No. School districts can limit how many and which students are eligible for in-school quarantine. Districts may want to consider physical capacity and staffing limitations as well as which students may most benefit from an in-school quarantine option.

**Q: What kind of supervision must be provided for in-school quarantine students?**

A: This is a local, educational delivery issue, and health officials aren't making an absolute recommendation on the level of supervision required. Districts would need to consult with their county health department to ensure the supervision provided complies with health guidelines.

**Q: Is there an adequate supply of COVID-19 testing materials to provide frequent testing for students in an in-school quarantine?**

A: Yes. Given the short time frame and guidelines, state health officials aren't expecting a large number of districts to participate and are confident an adequate supply of testing materials is available.

**Q: Will this allow students to have a shorter quarantine period?**

A: No. One of the guidelines is that students must complete the full 14-day quarantine. The guidelines are subject to change if the health department deems it necessary.



**Q: My district is interested in offering in-school quarantine. What are my next steps?**

A: Contact your county health department for additional information and to start the process.