

Ponca City Public Schools



September 27, 2020

Dear PCPS Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

Below you will find the weekly update informing our public of the COVID-19 positive cases and quarantined, close contact totals for PCPS occurring the week of September 21. However, you may refer to the **PCPS Contact Tracing Totals Spreadsheet** each evening for daily updates. The link to the spreadsheet is at the top of the homepage on our district website: www.pcps.us

Date:	Site:	School Positive Cases:	Close Contacts:	Total Affected:	Additional Information: <i>Non-School Positive Close Contacts are Positive Cases that are not school students or employees, but students or employees are close contacts.</i>
9.21	WO/TR/ Multiple Sites	8	98	105	Closed 3 Elementary Classrooms-2 at Woodlands and 1 at Trout- Several Close Contacts at POHI and several Non-school Positive Close Contacts provided by parents or KCHD.
9.22	LN/WMS/POHI	1	7	7	Close Contacts of Non-School Positives provided by parents or KCHD
9.23	RO/UN/WCA/ POHI/LN	2	16	18	Closed 1 Classroom at UN-1 Positive Case Has Not Been in School this Week-Several Close Contacts for Non-School Cases provided by parents KCHD
9.24	LB	1	17	18	Closed 1 Elementary Classroom at Liberty.
9.25	RO/GF/TR	1	6	7	Limited Close Contacts of School Positive-Several Non-school close contacts provided by parents or KCHD
Totals:		13	144	157	

This week, we have had **13** COVID-19 positive cases and **144** close contacts. This number reflects an up-tick in cases correlating with the COVID-19 Alert System for Kay County of **27.9, or Orange Level 2 – Moderate Risk +**. Last week, we had **8** COVID-19 positive cases and **231** close contacts, so the number of close contacts affected are situational depending on many factors. Physical contact activities lead to a significant number of close contacts.

We have had 24 school days and **41** COVID-19 in school positive cases, both active and recovered and that is with a district-wide mask mandate. **Eleven** close contacts have changed to positive cases after numbers were reported. We will continue to rigidly mitigate to prevent widespread positives at a site or throughout the district. Currently, the positive cases in our schools appear to be isolated among sites or classrooms, but positives are widespread throughout families living in the same household, so it is critical we remain diligent with wearing face coverings and social distancing. **In-person instruction, for Option 1 Learners, will continue the week of September 28-October-2.**

We will continue to strictly mitigate as directed by the legal guidance of the State Department of Education and Oklahoma Department of Health to follow CDC Guideline for Schools to avoid widespread site positives. Keep in mind, there are a multitude of CDC Guidelines available, BUT the State Department of Education’s legal guidance

directs schools to follow the CDC Guideline for Schools. The state epidemiologist or Oklahoma State Department of Health will intervene if schools do not react to positive cases as advised. **Our best opportunity to keep school open, as well as extracurriculars in place, is to follow these guidelines with diligence.**

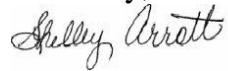
The PCPS Administration and Board of Education are committed to maintaining in-person instruction as long as it is safe to do so. *Please help us keep schools open and activities in place by following protocols recommended by health officials such as wearing masks, washing hands, socially distancing and quarantining, whether in school or out of school.* These protocols will help increase the probability that we will be able to continue school and extra-curricular activities. Thank you for your cooperation and for your support of Ponca City Public Schools.

We have completed 24 days of school: **11 days NO POSITIVES, 13 days POSITIVES**

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this global pandemic. Our greatest priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community members. We will continue to stay in constant communication with our families and patrons.

Please feel free to contact Curtis Layton, Executive Director of Human Resources, or me with any questions at 580-767-8000.

Sincerely,



Shelley Arrott
Superintendent, Ponca City Public Schools

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COVID-19 AND PCPS:

Students/Staff affected are participating in Distance Learning remotely. Teachers will keep students and parents informed of Distance Learning details. However, students and staff under quarantine cannot attend school or school events throughout the duration of the quarantine.

State law empowers the state Health Department with the exclusive authority to issue an isolation or quarantine order. Health officials will determine the length of an isolation or quarantine period. School districts are obligated by law to respect and cooperate with the orders of health officials. When we have a *positive case* in our school, our trained staff will complete a contact tracing investigation and will report the investigative data to the Kay County Department of Health. **If a student or staff member is in close contact with a positive case, all close contacts will be quarantined, without exception, for 14 days. Close contacts are identified as those who were less than 6' apart for more than 15 minutes from a positive case or who were in physical contact with the positive case.** Quarantine prevents the spread of the disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. Face coverings greatly reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19, which further reduces the spread. However, the face coverings are not an exemption from quarantine as directed by updated CDC Guidelines.

If students or personnel are quarantined, they will not be able to come to school, enter buildings, attend school events, or participate in school activities for the full 14 days, no exceptions. We want our students to be in school and to participate in activities, but it will take **ALL** of us to stop the spread. We want to **avoid** a temporary total school closure, with all students learning virtually. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF SOMEONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19.**

Remain vigilant to stopping the spread of COVID-19. The CDC recommends the following best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*
- *Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.*
- *Avoid close contact with those who are sick.*
- *Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.*
- *Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.*
- *Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.*
- *Wear a cloth mask or face covering when social distancing is not possible.*

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, you are encouraged to contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Important Reminder: Make sure your phone numbers are accurate in the Parent Portal. During this time of frequent contact, it is imperative numbers are updated so we can communicate with you quickly.