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## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Dear Independent School Districts,

As we continue to navigate this unprecedented pandemic, we continue to identify cases, and contact trace cases, through this letter the Health Department is providing further guidance to aspects of prevention protocols in order to ensure everyone's safety. As such, the Health District would like your assurance that the following practices are strictly and without exception implemented within your Prevention Plans:

1. For students or employees who are confirmed COVID-19 positive, 10 Day Isolation Period is Required prior to returning to campus, no student or employee can test out & come back before the required 10 days. Their symptoms must be improving, and they must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of reducing medications before they are allowed back to school.
2. ANY individual within the household of a student or employee who is confirmed COVID-19 positive must complete the 14-day quarantine period prior to returning to campus. That includes others within the household students who must also quarantine, even in the absence of symptoms. No one can test out of quarantine as the incubation period for COVID-19 is still between 2 to 14 days.
3. Wearing masks has no relevance on determining whether they were a close contact to a positive case. Anyone who was in close proximity for an extended period of time (10 minutes or more & can be cumulative time over 24 hour time period) must quarantine regardless of wearing a mask.

The Health District thanks all School Districts for the relentless effort in controlling this pandemic as we strive to maintain low COVID-19 cases. I am certain that together we can keep our community and our children safe during this pandemic. Please contact any of the contacts listed on this letter if you have any questions as we are ready to assist you.

Annette Rodriguez, MPH  
Director of Public Health