

December 18, 2020

Dear Halfway R-III Families,

Recently, the Polk County Health Center, in accordance with the CDC, approved two options that may reduce quarantine days for asymptomatic individuals, and the Halfway R-III School District will also follow these guidelines:

1. If asymptomatic for **10** days (through day 10, **returning on day 11**) during the quarantine period, the individual may be released if they continue to wear a mask, socially distance themselves, wash hands, and monitor for symptoms the final four days of the 14-day quarantine.

2. If asymptomatic for **7** days (through day 7, **returning on day 8**) during the quarantine period, the individual may be released if they receive a negative test from Polk County Health Center (PCR test on day 7) or a negative antigen test conducted on day 7 at other medical facility. The person must wear a mask, socially distance, wash hands, and monitor symptoms for the final seven days of the 14-day quarantine. **Keep in mind, however, if you test positive, you WILL be required to quarantine for an additional 10 days.** The testing cost will be the responsibility of the student's family.

The person in quarantine will be responsible for providing the Polk County Health Center with proof of a negative test result if testing is not done at the Polk County Health Center..

A person is considered *symptomatic* when reporting 2 or more symptoms

If you are *asymptomatic* and choosing to reduce your quarantine time via testing, please know that the schools will not be able to offer this testing. You will need to use one of the following testing procedures in Polk County:

1. Contact your physician and explain your circumstances. You will request a test through a physician's order. CMH will offer the antigen or the PCR test on day 7. The cost, in accordance with your student's health insurance, will be the responsibility of the student's family.

2. Contact the Polk County Health Center. Explain your circumstances. They will offer PCR tests on Day 7. The cost is \$60, due at the time of the test.

There is *no charge* for testing someone who is a direct contact, is symptomatic, and has no insurance, OR is a verified essential worker who agrees to quarantine outside of the work day for the full 14-day period.

A person must be contact traced (2 calls minimum and reporting no symptoms) or they will not be able to reduce quarantine time.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions.

Lance W. Roweton  
Superintendent