

Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI)

Alternate Methods of Instruction, or AMI, is an approach to virtual learning that our state department of education allows us to use in the event of closing the district, or a building within the district, for inclement weather or infectious disease. We are allowed to utilize this method for up to 36 hours of instruction. For our district, 36 hours is about 5.5 days. This means that we could use this method for the district or a building for up to 5.5 days without using our built-in weather time or needing to make up the time.

We are hopeful that we will not need to utilize AMI time as a whole district or building, but are prepared in case it becomes necessary. We had not initially intended to use AMI for weather; however, it may be necessary to utilize AMI time to avoid a situation in which we are making up time at the end of the year if we have to close for COVID-related reasons. We intend to continue operating in-person. Conditions that would cause us to close the district or specific buildings would be due to either an inability to adequately staff the facility or if active cases and quarantines become too many and a short-term closure becomes necessary. We do not have a specific number of students in quarantine that would trigger a closure.

Students who are in quarantine will also be able to utilize AMI to continue instruction. Using AMI for individual students or small groups of students does not count against our 36-hour total that we can use for whole buildings or the district. Students who complete their work during quarantine will be counted as present. When a student is quarantined, you should receive communication from the school about how to continue with AMI. Each individual situation is unique and a plan is created for the individual or small group based on the circumstance. If you have had your child placed in quarantine, but have not received information about continuing with AMI instruction, please reach out to your building principal.

It is important to note that whether individual, small group, whole building, or whole district, work assigned during AMI is required and will count for grades. If students in quarantine become ill, they may not be able to continue with AMI during their quarantine. Students who are too ill to complete AMI will be absent and will be given the regular opportunity to make up their work missed due to illness.

Technology

Students will need access to an internet-capable device and have internet service to complete AMI work. If you do not have a reliable computer, the district can provide a computer for you during the quarantine period. Please inform your building principal if you would like to have a computer sent home. Also, we do have mobile hotspots that we can provide during the quarantine period for those who may not have reliable internet service. Please inform your principal if you need a hotspot for your child to continue with AMI.

Teacher Communication

An important component of AMI is that there are opportunities for two-way communication with instructional staff at the school. If you are having difficulty communicating with your child's teachers, please let the building principal know.

Contact Tracing

There have been several questions about quarantines and contact tracing and how the process works. Quarantines are put in place by the health department, not the school. The school does cooperate with the health department to determine close contacts when a positive case is identified. Below is information on how the process works:

1. Notification: Once the school is notified that we have a student or staff member who is positive, we begin the process of determining if a contact trace is required.
2. Determining if a Contact Trace is Required: To determine if a contact trace is required, we have to go back 48 hours from time of symptom onset, or from time of positive test if symptoms were not present. We determine if the individual was in close contact with others in this timeframe.
3. Determining Close Contacts: Close contacts are those who are within 6ft. of a positive individual for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period. To determine contacts, we use seating charts and any other available information to determine where students were located. The more specific information we have, the more we are able to limit quarantines based on distancing.

Quarantine

Quarantines are 10 days in duration and begin accruing at time of exposure. For example, if someone was exposed on Monday, September 20, day 1 would be Tuesday, September 21. Day 2=22, Day 3=23, Day 4=24, Day 5=25, Day 6=26, Day 7=27, Day 8=28, Day 9=29, Day 10=30. Return to school is Friday, October 1.

Exclusions from Quarantine

1. Those who have been fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine unless they develop compatible symptoms. Fully vaccinated means receiving both doses and it has been 14 days since second dose.
2. If the COVID-positive individual is masked at time of exposure, any other individuals who are masked have their contact distance reduced from 6ft to 3ft., meaning those who were at least 3ft apart do not quarantine. If both parties are masked and the contact is closer than 3ft, the contact can still

come to school but is otherwise considered quarantined—this is called modified quarantine.

3. Those who have previously had COVID have a 90-day exclusion window from needing to quarantine. To qualify for this exemption, the positive test has to have been done in a clinical setting and recorded. A positive home test does not qualify. We encourage those who receive a positive home test to follow-up with their medical provider.