



LATTA SCHOOL

13925 County Road 1560 • Ada, OK 74820-0804

December 9, 2020

Latta Families and Staff:

As all of you know, 2020 has been a challenging year. When this school year started the primary goal of Latta School was to be able to conduct in-person school as safely as possible. COVID has impacted our school and our families in many ways, but so far, our district has not missed a single day of in-person school due to the pandemic. By continuing to have in-person school, we have been able to give our students the best opportunities to learn and hopefully have reduced one of the many stresses endured by our families during these trying times.

Most of you are probably aware that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued new alternative guidelines for quarantining individuals that may have been exposed to COVID. These new alternative guidelines would, in some instances, allow an individual to be removed from quarantine in as little as seven days with a negative test and no symptoms, or in ten days if they are symptom free. Under the alternative guidelines, individuals would be required to continue symptom monitoring and masking through day 14.

When Latta School became aware of the alternative guidelines issued by the CDC, we contacted the Pontotoc County Health Department for further guidance. The following list represents information gathered during that contact:

- The Pontotoc County Health Department and Oklahoma State Department of Education continues to recommend a 14-day quarantine after exposure as best practice.
- If the student comes back at day 10, they will be required to wear a mask until day 14 is completed.
- It is recommended that the student sit greater than six feet away from others when their mask is removed to eat. This could require students to be segregated at meal times.
- If the student returns at an earlier release day such as 7th or 10th day, the student should sit out of PE or athletic activities until day 14 is completed because the student must wear a mask at all times. It is not recommended to wear a mask during activities that require a great deal of physical exertion such as PE or athletics.

After careful consideration and reviewing all the information provided by the Pontotoc County Health Department regarding the alternative guidelines, we have determined that we will continue to follow the original guidelines set in the Latta Public School's Return to Learn Plan. This means student and staff who may have been exposed to COVID will be required to be out of school for 14 days. This decision was made based on the protocols that will allow us to keep our students and staff as safe as possible while giving us the best possibility of continuing in-person school.

Latta Schools appreciates the continued support of our families and the community as we strive to provide our students and staff with a safe school environment. We know that as long as we continue to work together, our students will receive the best opportunities that we can provide.

Respectfully,

Cliff Johnson
Superintendent