



Pea Ridge Schools - 979 Weston St. - Pea Ridge, AR 72751 - (800) 451 - 0032

Keith Martin, Superintendent - Anne Martfeld & Kevin Ramey, Assistant Superintendents

*Preparing students for the future by providing a personalized, uncommon education for all.*

February 2, 2022

Dear Parents and Community,

On February 1, 2022, Governor Hutchinson announced school districts were no longer required to contract trace to identify probable close contacts and require them to quarantine. With this announcement, Pea Ridge Schools will suspend contact tracing procedures. Students and staff who test positive will still be required to isolate. The district will continue to work toward implementing mitigation measures as appropriate in the school environment and encourage families to do so as well. It is more important than ever to ensure the safety of all students and staff. When a student is not feeling well or has a fever they are to remain at home, especially if they are known to have been exposed or in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Attendance as always is critical for the overall success of students. We recommend that whenever possible students attend school to achieve at high levels academically and to receive additional support and services.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 (home or clinic test) and have been reported through the school district's COVID-19 reporting link will be marked as quarantined and their absence will be excused for the appropriate number of days. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) quarantine period for schools is unchanged at this time- 10 calendar days, but students may return after 5 calendar days wearing a mask if they are exhibiting no symptoms for 24 hours.

Students who may have been exposed (probable close contact) to COVID-19 or who are symptomatic and awaiting test results will need to be reported by their parent or guardian, indicating the student's status using the school district's COVID-19 reporting link. Absences that are a result of reported exposure will be marked as quarantine and will be considered excused for the ADH quarantine period as outlined above.

All other absences will follow the district policy for excused and unexcused, with each campus recording those accordingly. Excessive absences will result in standard practices of notification and support from the student's building administration.

We will continue to follow COVID-19 guidance from the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education as it is updated, and any changes will be communicated via the school district website and facebook page.

Respectfully,

Keith Martin