

## ARKANSAS: Back to School & Ready to Learn

### Quarantine Guidance for Parents/Guardians September 17, 2021

Many students and families continue to face quarantine hardships in our schools. This is a resource document for assisting student and families as they navigate the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Guidance for Schools.

[https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/REVISED\\_Copy\\_of\\_FINAL\\_2021-22\\_Guidance\\_for\\_Schools\\_20210810111300.pdf](https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/REVISED_Copy_of_FINAL_2021-22_Guidance_for_Schools_20210810111300.pdf)

Quarantines significantly impact the educational, social, emotional and psychological wellbeing of the student. Simply put, kids need to be in school and it is our shared responsibility to be sure that happens.

#### **Guidance philosophy:**

**If a school interferes with a student's freedom by imposing mandatory quarantines (effective suspension) then the student/parent/guardian is entitled to be informed of the specific Arkansas Department of Education guidelines that authorize such action. Without these details, students should feel free to go about their lives without the officious intermeddling by the school district.**

Parents should understand the following regarding 2021-22 Arkansas COVID-19 Guidance (8/10/21)

1. The 'Guidance' carries the force of law according to recent testimony by AR Dept of Ed (ADE) and AR Dept of Health (ADH).
  - a. It is a mandate not guidance!
  - b. Schools that don't comply can face penalties (probationary status).
  - c. Students that don't comply can face penalties (suspension).
2. One would assume that the 'mandated guidance' will apply equally to all sections of the handout.
  - a. Masks, physical distancing, handwashing, ventilation, screenings (temperature checks), food service, busing, activities, close contact determinations etc.
3. Schools should be responsible for having written policies outlining implementation, operation, monitoring and enforcement of ALL aspects of their mandated guidance.
  - a. For the sake of transparency, those documents should be available to the public. Ask for them!
4. Parents should be entitled to due process any time the decision is made to suspend, quarantine or remove their child from school.
5. The form on the back of this page serves as a guide for parents as they navigate the quarantine process.

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- Notice to parents: If you do not receive requested information, you may make an Arkansas Freedom of Information Act request seeking all records that relate to the subjects contained on this form. The information should be sent to you via email within 3 business days.

## Parent/Guardian Quarantine Information Request

1. Identify the specific violation as outlined in the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Guidance for Schools. The 15 minute/6 ft rule may be cumulative. Be sure all components are listed separately.
  - a. Date:
  - b. Time of day: Beginning/Ending
  - c. Location: Include approximate distance at the time of the violation
  - d. Witnesses: One would assume more than one witness is needed to corroborate an occurrence
  
2. Verify that the school is in compliance with all components of the 'Guidance'.
  - a. Physical distancing:                      Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - b. Hand washing:                              Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - c. Ventilations:                                Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - d. Food service:                                Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - e. Busing:                                        Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - f. School related activities                  Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - g. Positive Cases Response                  Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - h. Close Contact Determination              Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - i. Quarantines                                 Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - j. Isolation                                      Full                      Partial                      Minimal
    - j.i. Who is responsible for Isolation tracking, monitoring, reporting: \_\_\_\_\_
    - j.ii. Confidence in the accuracy of the tracking, monitoring, reporting: Full Partial Minimal
  - k. Are students staying home when they are sick: Yes                      No                      Unknown
  - l. Does staff stay home when they are sick: Yes                      No                      Unknown
  - m. Are all staff trained in 2021-2022 AR COVID-19 Guidance              Full                      Partial                      Minimal
  - n. Are signed In-Service documents including the agenda available for review: Yes                      No
  - o. Is a written copy of quarantine policies and procedures available: Yes                      No
  - p. Did the parent request a formal hearing or conference to discuss the quarantine determination? Yes                      No
    - p.i. If yes: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Some administrators may be hesitant to complete or sign the form. In that case, you may complete the form and note they declined to sign.
- \*\* Be friendly and polite. These guidelines were mandated by ADH.
- \*\*\* Some schools may not be in satisfactory compliance with the Guidance. In that case, you may file a complaint with ADH. This is similar to the process utilized by ADH during the pandemic when ADH inspected, fined and closed business. Request an inspection and address your complaint to your local health department or;

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