

January 20, 2022

Dear Octorara School Community,

The Chester County Health Department (CCHD) released new information today about their efforts to use contact tracing as a mitigation strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19. Effective today, Thursday, January 20, 2022, school districts are no longer expected to issue CCHD quarantines to close contacts when positive cases occur in the school setting.

You can review CCHD's most recent update here: [Coronavirus COVID-19 | Chester County, PA - Official Website](#)

Therefore, effective immediately, Octorara will discontinue contact tracing and the process of identifying close contacts for quarantine. Communications to close contacts and classrooms of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will no longer be sent to families. Any individual who was placed on quarantine prior to today as a close contact is expected to complete the full quarantine period before returning to school. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 still need to isolate and quarantine per CCHD guidance and are strongly urged to notify any close contacts themselves.

Staff and families should continue to work directly with their school nurse to report COVID-like symptoms and positive test results. OASD will continue to update the COVID-19 Dashboard on the website to include the number of positive cases identified in each school; however, quarantine numbers will no longer be tracked. The COVID-19 Testing Center will also remain open to support students and staff. You can also request free at-home test kits for your family at [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#).

Monday's school board meeting will include an overview of the most recent changes to CCHD's guidance and further discussion about Octorara's Health and Safety plan. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about CCHD's most recent update. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together to keep one another safe and healthy and our schools open.

Sincerely,

Michele M. Orner, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools