



## MUSTANG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empowering Today To Achieve A Better Tomorrow

Mustang Families,

I would like to begin by thanking all of our students, families, and staff for the patience, flexibility, and grace that has been shown during this unusual 2020 school year. We have faced and worked our way through numerous obstacles, yet we have done so together, and I am a proud parent, Superintendent, and Bronco!

I am writing to you today to inform you about a limited pilot program that we will be starting soon at Mustang High School called the In-School Quarantine Program (ISQ). This limited pilot program is being coordinated through our health partners at the State of Oklahoma & Canadian County Health Departments.

### **What Is The ISQ?**

*The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is instituting a short-term change in policy for quarantining of students in public schools. Beginning November 30, 2020 through December 23, 2020, they are permitting schools that are able and willing to follow specific guidelines, to institute in-school quarantine of students who have been exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting.*

### **Why Is Mustang Participating In The ISQ?**

*The benefits of this pilot program for Mustang include the ability to continue to protect students and staff from COVID-19, while also providing a safe environment and resources needed for students to engage in distance learning during their quarantine period. Under existing OSDH policy, students subject to quarantine may have lost many of the benefits schools can provide, including a safe environment with adult supervision, nutritional support, internet and technology resources, and easier access to instructor assistance. Additionally, this policy will allow assessment of the frequency of transmission of COVID-19 occurring among such students, and provide data to inform future educational decisions and public health practice.*

The ultimate goal of participation in this limited pilot program is to gain a better understanding of how masks affect close contacts stemming from a school exposure and the impact of quarantine upon positivity rates. Currently Mustang Public Schools data indicates that 44 individuals (out of 3,548) who have been quarantined due to a close contact have turned positive which equates to a 1.24% positivity rate. However, this does not account for asymptomatic individuals who did not test as a result of being quarantined. The OSDH believes that this number would be higher with a testing protocol in place, but the ISQ will allow for solid data to be collected on this subject to inform future decisions including, but not limited to, the length and/or processes associated with quarantining, educational models, etc.

We have said since the beginning of the school year that our ultimate goal is to have in-person instruction 5 days/week for all students, but we can only do that safely. This limited pilot program is another piece in the puzzle to hopefully move us in that direction. Should you have any questions concerning the ISQ, please feel free to reach out to us at [MERCcontact@mustangps.org](mailto:MERCcontact@mustangps.org).

Please also continue to report all exposures/close-contacts, quarantines, isolations and/or positive cases to us at [COVID19@mustangps.org](mailto:COVID19@mustangps.org). We, again, thank you for your continued support of Mustang Public Schools; it is truly a privilege to partner with you in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Charles Bradley, Superintendent  
Mustang Public Schools



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### Program Specifics/Details

- Participation is voluntary: Families will have the opportunity to opt in to the program if/when their student(s) is/are quarantined due to an in-school exposure. Parents of quarantined students will be informed of the requirements of the program, and sign an agreement for their student to participate.
  - Exposures that occur outside of the school environment will not be eligible for the program.
- ISQ participants will:
  - attend school in a socially distanced environment and away from contact with non-quarantined students/staff;
  - remain in the space at all times during the school day except for breaks for restroom and outside time;
  - maintain social distancing of AT LEAST 6 feet within the quarantine space;
  - be required to wear masks at all times except when eating;
  - will be tested repeatedly (at least on days 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 14 of quarantine) using the Binax Now rapid diagnostic test.
    - This is the mid-nasal rapid test
    - Tests will be provided to the schools by the OSDH
    - Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 (either at school, or a different test performed by another qualified testing facility) shall immediately enter isolation and will no longer be permitted in the in-school quarantine program
  - not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities; ride buses to or from school; attend after-school events; or be in any other situations where contact with non-quarantined persons is likely
  - be supervised by MPS staff members during their participation in the ISQ.

After December 23rd, data from all testing will be collated and examined for frequency of students becoming infected during the quarantine period. This information can then be used to guide policy for return to school in the winter/spring semester 2021.