



*Delivering Extraordinary Value to Families*

## **Steel Valley School District**

**District Administrative Offices**

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***Edward Wehrer***  
***Superintendent***

February 12, 2021

Dear Steel Valley Families and Staff,

As part of our continuing efforts to work with the Allegheny County Health Department, we recommend quarantines to staff members and students that we identify as close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases. Quarantine is an effective tool to help prevent the spread of disease by people who might be infectious even though they are asymptomatic, which means that they have no COVID symptoms.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a quarantine period of 14 days, but their guidelines also support an alternative option of 10 days of quarantine, as long as no symptoms have occurred. Recently, some of our students and employees have been advised by their healthcare providers to quarantine for 10 days, not 14.

Based on these factors, beginning on Friday, February 12, 2021, the Steel Valley School District will offer students and staff the option to reduce the duration of quarantine from 14 days to 10 days. The CDC does offer a third option of 7 days with a negative diagnostic test on Day 5. After consulting with our school nurses, I have decided that we will not accept that third option because of the possible confusion over test types and the higher risk of post-quarantine transmission.

Additionally, this quarantine option will allow close contacts of positive household members to reduce their 24-day quarantine period (10 days for isolation followed by 14 days for quarantine) to 20 days. Our COVID Decision Tree, which can be found on our website, provides more detailed information about how we deal with positive cases, suspected cases and close contacts.

Going forward, quarantines in Steel Valley can end after Day 10 without testing if no symptoms have been experienced. However, the CDC recommends that symptom monitoring continue until Day 14.

Students and staff members who currently are in quarantine with no symptoms- and who remain asymptomatic- will be able to return to in-person instruction or work after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine. Those people will be contacted by their school with their new dates of return.

Sincerely,

Edward Wehrer  
Superintendent