

Frequently Asked Covid Questions

1. What is King's primary way of communicating with parents as a group?

We regularly send robocalls to communicate with parents regarding critical information. These calls come as phone calls, emails, and text messages, utilizing the contact information in Infinite Campus. Often, we find that the contact information in Infinite Campus is incorrect or outdated. We created a google form at the beginning of the year for parents to update contact information. We used the responses to update Infinite Campus.

2. If laptops are being provided in school, shouldn't they be sent home with those that are quarantined? Some people don't have access to their own home devices and without these wouldn't be able to keep up with work.

We are still awaiting our Verizon laptops that come loaded with hot spots (estimated eta is by the end of this week (9-17-21). Once they arrive, these computers will be issued to students for use at school and home. The laptops that we have now are for school use only. We are currently providing refurbished computers to students that are sent home to quarantine on an as-needed basis. Unfortunately, however, the refurbished computers nor the current school computers have hot spots.

3. Who is alerting the teachers within the students learning communities when a student is sent home due to close contact?

The grade level administrator and/or Nurse sends the teachers a list of students that have tested positive and/or are identified as close contacts.

4. Absences are being marked as unexcused. How will those get changed? Who is managing that process and how are they alerted?

Our attendance clerk is also copied on the communication from the admin and school nurse to indicate students that are identified as close contacts and should therefore be coded as quarantine. Once the teacher marks the student as absent (teachers are only able to mark a student absent or tardy), the attendance clerk goes back through the list(s) and codes the students accordingly.

5. In addition to regular email communications, could you consider hosting regular town halls to communicate what is happening within the school to ensure steps are being taken to improve the situation?

There are no plans currently to host any town halls. We will let you know should this change soon.

6. What is happening in the school to fix the issue of entire connections classes being sent home when one person tests positive?

All classroom teachers have submitted seating charts. We will use seating charts and proximity for contact tracing in Connections, just as we do in other classes. However, this becomes difficult in classes such as swimming and PE where students are moving around and interacting. While we will try to limit the number of students to quarantine in these classes, we will always err on the side of caution and safety. It is important to note that the only time we have sent a class home was Connection classes. We have never sent home entire core content classes because our seating charts are working effectively to minimize exposure.

7. What are the expectations of teachers and students during quarantine? Are there standards being set to keep up with work and instruction? And if so, what are those expectations?

Currently, teachers are expected to ensure that all students have been invited to their Google Classrooms, and post assignments daily. Students will be allowed to make up work once they return to school in an instance in which they did not have access to technology, and/or did not understand how to complete an assignment. Teachers will be adding supplemental sites and resources to their Google classrooms to further support learning and enrichment for students that are quarantined. We are also working on packets and workbooks that can be sent home with students should they be identified as close contacts or covid positive when there is no access to technology in the home. We will also be providing tutorial days beginning in mid-September.

8. How are masks being enforced in the school for both teachers and students?

Masks are always enforced. We provide masks for any students that need one or a replacement. Any students/teachers not properly masked are addressed immediately.

9. Since this form was promoted in the Facebook parent's group, how are you as a team going to get more people to sign-up on the form? Should it go in the PTA newsletter? Can you consider putting the QR code in the email and asking people to forward this to their friends? Where else could it be promoted?

We will post the form on our school website and King's Facebook page.

10. Will there be a link on these emails to submit additional questions to the King administrative team, as questions come up? Will these questions be answered in regular communication?

Parents should access the King Middle School website to locate email addresses for each administrator. Please forward any question(s) to the appropriate administrator or your child's homeroom teacher. Our regular communication will continue to be our Website and the King Facebook page.

11. Is there any plan to have the kids that are home quarantining join classes virtually? Some other schools are already doing this and there is concern that if students are out multiple times, they will fall behind. A lot of assignments are being posted in Google Classroom, but there are little instruction/notes available.

We are following the district protocol, which currently does not have plans in place to offer school-based simultaneous instruction. We will continue to provide additional support measures for students upon returning to make up missed assignments and instruction. We will also work with teachers to create lessons that provide videos, tutorials, and notes to support instruction and understanding for students that may be out due to quarantine.

12. What percentage of the staff at King is vaccinated?

Currently, over 90% of our staff is vaccinated.