

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Quarantine

Dear Gov. Reynolds,

I am writing on behalf of the Iowa Chapter of the American College of Emergency Medicine (ACEP). We are concerned that your new policy allowing students that have come into close contact with COVID (+) students to remain in school if both students were wearing a mask is not in accordance with CDC recommendations.

The CDC recommends that "People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the person who has COVID-19." Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive patient for 15 minutes or more. There is no exception for mask wearing.

As you know, school classrooms are often described as petri dishes and it is common for children to pass colds to one another. It is also impossible for teachers and school staff to monitor every nose wipe, sneeze, cough and touch of one's own mask in a full classroom of students, making the possibility of respiratory droplet transfer from one student to the other more likely.

Iowa ACEP advocates for adherence to the CDC's policy of 14 days of quarantine for any person that has been in close contact, as defined by the CDC, with a COVID positive person. We ask that you retract your policy allowing students who have meet COVID-19 positive people while wearing a mask to stay in school. Please help the medical community stop the spread of COVID-19 and insist upon quarantine for anyone that has had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

[Iowa Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians \(IA-ACEP\)](#)

¹ [Cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)

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