

COVID-19: Exclusion, Quarantine, & Re-Entry

Boscobel Area Schools

Updated 11/1/21

During the pandemic, school staff are encouraged to use a liberal approach when determining whether to send a student home due to illness. In other words, if a student is displaying mild symptoms, it may be best to send them home. This decision-making can reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to one or more students or staff in the school. The symptom criteria below apply to COVID-19-related exclusions for in-person instruction, and are the decisions of the school board. (Other symptoms may also require exclusion for different communicable diseases, as per usual.)

Exclusion

If you have questions about your student's exclusion, isolation, or quarantine, please call the school nurse (375-4165, #2) or send an email to nurse@boscobel.k12.wi.us. An alternate learning option is available for students who must be away from the school. To request make-up work or seek remote learning for your child during exclusion, isolation, or quarantine, call the building secretary or contact your child's teacher(s).

Your child/student may be sent home (from school and school activities) if any of the following occur:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) or were diagnosed with COVID-19 by a health care provider and have not yet finished their (10-day) isolation period.
- They are not fully vaccinated and have come in contact with a COVID-19 case in the past 14 days.
- They are a sibling or live in the same household as an individual who is symptomatic.
- They have reported or demonstrated the following symptom(s) at school:
 - Any one of the following symptoms
 - Shortness of breath/trouble breathing
 - New loss of sense of taste or smell
 - **OR** at least two of the following symptoms
 - Cough
 - Fever (100-100.4 or higher) or chills
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Runny nose or nasal congestion
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Symptomatic staff and students will be isolated and asked to wear a mask until they leave the building. Parents should have a plan in place for students to be picked up promptly if they become sick at school. School staff will follow school board criteria for exclusion and for re-entry to school. We will also consider information provided from health care providers.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SICK CHILD

Please keep your child home from school and all school activities and work together with the school to

continue instruction while they are out. Your child can return to school and in-person instruction/activities after 10 days, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have not had a fever for 24 hours. **Having your child tested for COVID-19 may allow them to return to in-person learning earlier than this date, as long as they are not positive and have not been in contact with a positive case. Only PCR testing will be accepted for this purpose.** The test for COVID-19 involves a quick swab of the inside of the nose. Your child can be tested by their regular health care provider, at a local clinic/hospital, at a school-based testing site, or at a community testing site. If you plan to have your child tested by your health care provider, remember to call before you go to the site. Tell them about your child's symptoms and whether your child had close contact to someone who has COVID-19. You can take this letter along to show your provider. Alternately, you can look for a community testing site near you at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>. Keep in mind that some community testing sites will not test children under a certain age. Call ahead to be sure your child can be tested. Minors may need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to be tested.

If your child is tested and the result is **positive** for COVID-19, contact your local health department and the school for next steps. If your child is tested and the result is **negative** (PCR) for COVID-19, your child can return to school for in-person instruction when their symptoms have improved and they do not have a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications). Please call the school ahead of time to be sure it is safe for your child to return to class. The school will require proof of negative test results. If you seek medical care and your child is diagnosed with something other than COVID-19, you should follow your health care provider's advice and provide a medical note to the school indicating the date when your child can safely return to in-person instruction. Your health care provider may use the DPH childhood diseases wall chart guidelines to determine this date: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf>.

You should seek emergency medical treatment for serious symptoms such as bluish lips or face, inability to wake or stay awake, new confusion, persistent pain or pressure in the chest or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OTHERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD (WHEN SOMEONE IS SICK)

Current scientific research shows that both children and adults can have COVID-19 and spread it to others without showing symptoms or feeling sick. To prevent spread to others in the school, public health recommends keeping all school-age children in your household home. However, the school board has decided that siblings or household members of symptomatic individuals may continue to attend school as long as they do not have symptoms. These individuals must mask at school for 14 days regardless of exemptions or current masking protocol.

Communication is crucial during this process. You can reach the school by calling 375-4165 (elementary school) or 375-4161 (middle/high school). Remote instruction or school work can be arranged through communication with teachers or building offices. You can reach Grant County Health Department at 608-723-6416. Test results can be faxed to the school nurse at 608-375-4192 or emailed to nurse@boscobel.k12.wi.us. Hard copies or printed results are also accepted. Families may find the following documents helpful:

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Returning_to_School_After_COVID-19.pdf
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02598a.pdf>

Close Contact Definition

When a close contact is identified, it triggers a specific set of public health recommendations for symptom monitoring, quarantine, and testing (if the close contact is not fully vaccinated).

A close contact has occurred in any of the following situations happened while an individual (student or staff person) spent time with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, even if they did not have symptoms during their infectious period. You are a close contact if:

- You had direct physical contact (hug, kiss, handshake, etc.) with the person.
- You spent 15 minutes or more (cumulative total) within 6 feet of the positive person in a 24 hour period.
- You had contact with the positive person's respiratory secretions (coughed/sneezed on, contact with a dirty tissue, or shared a drinking glass, food, towels or other personal items).
- You live with the person or stayed overnight at least one night in the same household with the person (unless strict separation was maintained-meaning no shared bathroom, bedroom or common spaces).

EXCEPTION: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks. The exception does not apply to staff or adults in the classroom setting.

Quarantine & Isolation

The standard and safest quarantine for close contacts is 14 days from last date of contact (day 1 is the first day AFTER the last date of contact), with release (return to school or to activities) on day 15. Isolation for a positive case is 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR, if asymptomatic, 10 days from the date the positive sample was taken. Contact tracing for a positive case starts 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms OR, if asymptomatic, the date the positive sample was obtained. Tracing for close contacts to a positive case continues through the quarantine period if there was contact during that time period. (Note that within the same household, quarantines for close contacts will begin after the positive person's 10-day quarantine period ends-unless household members can properly isolate from each other.)

SHORTENED QUARANTINE OPTIONS

The following are reduced quarantine options for individuals who remain ASYMPTOMATIC after exposure.

- Close contacts who have NO symptoms may test on day 6 (or after) and may be released to activity/school after day 7 (on day 8). Close contacts must mask through the 14-day quarantine period.
- Close contacts who have NO symptoms may be released to activity/school after day 10 (on day 11) without a test. Close contacts must mask through the full 14-day quarantine period.

Note that fully vaccinated individuals who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine. In such cases, vaccination evidence will be required. If a close contact is able to provide a previously documented (approved) positive COVID-19 test result, the student/staff person shall be treated the same as a vaccinated individual for quarantine purposes. If a close contact is able to provide a positive COVID-19 antibody test result from an (approved) serology test, the student/staff person shall be treated the same as a vaccinated individual for quarantine purposes. Note that in

all of these cases, individuals will need to mask in school during the 14-day quarantine period regardless of current masking protocols or exemptions.

There will be numerous quarantine avenues specific to individual cases. Some factors affecting quarantine decisions are: whether mitigation measures (such as masking or physical distancing) are in place, whether individuals are fully vaccinated, if conditions for immunity are met, whether individuals are symptomatic, and test results (including type of COVID-19 test performed).

Household Contacts

A household contact is anyone who lives (or lived temporarily) with the COVID-19 case for at least one night in the same room or household during the infectious period. According to public health recommendations, a household member of a symptomatic person should not come to school until the symptomatic person has a negative test result. However, the school board has decided that siblings or household members of symptomatic individuals may continue to attend school as long as they do not have symptoms. These individuals must mask at school for 14 days regardless of exemptions or current masking protocol. Household members of a close contact do not need to quarantine, unless the close contact becomes symptomatic or tests positive.

Athlete Re-Entry

If an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 or is clinically diagnosed with COVID-19, they will follow the 10-day isolation period and should seek guidance from their primary health care provider and the local public health department for release to return to activity. As with any positive case, the presence of symptoms may extend a quarantine period. If a vaccinated athlete is identified as a close contact, the athlete does not have to quarantine and may return to activity IF masked during the 14-day quarantine period. If the activity/event is outside and there is no close contact or sharing of equipment, masking during the 14-day quarantine period will be considered on a case-by case basis.

Families may find the following document (“Next Steps-Close Contacts of Someone with COVID-19”) helpful:

- DHS <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02598a.pdf>

References/Resources:

- DHS <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- DPI <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- WHO <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>