

## COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT

2021-22

Dear Parent/Guardian or Staff Member:

The purpose of this letter is to identify close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case at school. Close contacts are at a higher risk of becoming ill from the virus. They should stay home from school and all school activities (self-quarantine) for 14 days from the last date of contact with the positive person. This is because it can take up to 14 days for someone to start having symptoms of COVID-19 after exposure. **To reduce the length of the quarantine, the close contact can return to school after day 7 (on day 8) if the individual is asymptomatic and has a negative PCR test result (with the test occurring on day 6 or later). The quarantine can end after day 10 (on day 11) without a test if the individual remains asymptomatic. Close contacts must wear a mask through the full 14 days quarantine period, regardless of current masking protocol or exemptions.** Please monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 during the quarantine period, and notify your health care provider and the Grant County Health Department at 608-723-6416 right away if your child becomes sick. Household members may continue to attend school and work as long as no one in the household tests positive for COVID-19. If this happens, please stay home and contact your local health department.

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a newer coronavirus. It spreads from person to person through droplets created when we cough, sneeze, talk, sing or laugh. Most people who get COVID-19 have mild illness, similar to having a cold or the flu. However, in others it can cause severe illness, such as pneumonia. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: cough, trouble breathing, lost of taste or smell, fever (temperature 100°F or higher)/chills, muscle/body aches, headache, fatigue, runny nose or nasal congestion, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Close contacts should monitor their symptoms twice daily during quarantine. Get medical attention immediately if you have any of these warning signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to be awakened, or bluish lips or face.

For more information on COVID-19, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the CDC recommend that anyone who has had close contact be tested, even if you are vaccinated and even if you do not have symptoms. The test for COVID-19 involves a swab of the inside of the nose. You can be tested by your regular health care provider, a local clinic or hospital, or a community testing site.

Call your health care provider before you go to get tested. Report any symptoms and inform them of the close contact. You can look for a community testing site near you at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>. Keep in mind that some community testing sites will not test children under a certain age. Call ahead to be sure.

The following guidelines will help to prevent further spread of illness at our school: monitor for symptoms, contact your health care provider and the local health department if you become sick, isolate from others when ill, and encourage good habits. To slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, you should: get vaccinated if eligible, wear a face covering when in public, distance as able, wash hands or sanitize frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home when sick, avoid crowded spaces, and avoid spending time with others when they are sick.

We will work to notify you of the date that your child can return to school. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Nurse Brinkman or Nurse Reynolds at 375-4165.

Sincerely,

Boscobel Area Schools