

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

Boscobel Area Schools

Updated 8/31/21

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 based on guidance from Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Grant County Health Department. (Other symptoms may also require exclusion for different communicable diseases, as per usual.)

Exclusion/Re-Entry

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 if any of the following occur:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) and have not yet finished their (10-day) isolation period.
- They 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
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/trouble breathing
 - New loss of sense of taste or smell
 - **OR** at least two of the following symptoms
 - 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 DHS (Department of Health Services), DPI (Department of Public Instruction), and/or CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) criteria for re-entry to school. We will also follow

local public health guidance and will consider information provided from health care providers. A student may be required to stay home for 24 hours up to as many as 24 days, depending upon the circumstances. **See also "DECISION TREE FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE."**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SICK CHILD

Please keep your child home from school and work together with the school to continue instruction while they are out. Your child can return to school and in-person instruction 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 (PCR or molecular) 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 doctor 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, please keep all school-age children in your household home and attending virtual instruction for a 14 days. (This quarantine will begin after the symptomatic person's 10-day quarantine period ends, unless household members can isolate separately from each other.) All persons in your household who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to self-quarantine following the CDC's guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>). Self-quarantine includes staying home from work, leaving the house only when necessary, wearing a mask in public, washing hands frequently, not having visitors, not sharing personal items, and staying 6 feet from others in your home as much as possible. If you have children at home who are fully vaccinated, they should still get tested and wear a mask indoors in public spaces for 14 days or until they test negative. They can continue to attend school **as long as they do not have symptoms**. Monitor yourself and the others in your household for symptoms and see a health care provider if you become sick, **even if you are fully vaccinated**.

If your symptomatic child or family member who was sent home is tested for COVID-19 and the test result is **negative** (PCR or molecular test), any school-age children in your household can return to school the next day as long as they are still feeling well and as long as you provide a copy of the negative test results to the school. Other members of the household would no longer need to self-quarantine. This is the case for illness, but does not apply to positive cases or to close contacts.

We realize the burden this may place on your family, and we want to do what we can to keep you, your family, and others at the school safe and well. If anyone in your household has needs that cannot be met during this isolation and self-quarantine period, please reach out to your local health department for guidance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Communication is crucial during this process. You can reach the school by calling 375-4165 (elementary school) or 375-4161 (middle/high school). 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.

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

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. Quarantine 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 taken. 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.)

After continued review of the requirements necessary to reduce quarantine time for close contacts, we are not able to ensure that conditions can be met to safely release students or staff early from quarantine. For example, some of the conditions involve mitigation measures that the district or school board has not adopted or is unable to ensure (such as physical distancing). Reducing the quarantine for close contacts poses an added risk to our school population, and in doing so, increases the threat of COVID-19 spread within our school district. This could potentially jeopardize our in-person learning. Additionally, Grant County Health Department, CDC, and Wisconsin DHS note that a 14-day quarantine for close contacts remains the safest option. For these reasons, Boscobel Area Schools will continue to follow and enforce the full 14 days of quarantine for students and staff who are identified as a close contacts.

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. A household member of a symptomatic person should not come to school until the symptomatic person has a negative test result. 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 quarantine 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>