

# **COVID-19: Overview**

## *Boscobel Area Schools*

Updated 12/22/21

### **What is COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is an infectious, respiratory disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus strain. Many people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Other people, especially older people and those with underlying medical problems, are more likely to develop serious illness. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact, and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes. COVID-19 spreads less commonly through indirect contact (contaminated surfaces/objects). There is evidence that suggests spread through airborne transmission. For more information, go to <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02592.pdf>.

### **How do I protect myself and others from COVID-19 infection?**

1. Get vaccinated if eligible.
2. Wear a mask as recommended.
3. Socially distance when able.
4. Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
5. Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available
6. Cover coughs and sneezes.
7. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
8. Monitor your health daily and stay home when you are sick.

### **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

- Cough
- Shortness of breath/trouble breathing
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- 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

Note that not everyone with COVID-19 has all of these symptoms and some people have no symptoms. You can still spread the virus to others even if you have mild or no symptoms and even when vaccinated.

Any plan for in-person learning comes with some inherent risk of contracting COVID-19. Our goal is to reduce that risk as much as possible for in-person learning. Boscobel Area Schools will seek and consider information and guidance from Grant County Health Department, along with Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). District metrics and local community and county activity and transmission rates will also be considered. The school board makes final decisions regarding COVID-19 protocol. Please see the most recent COVID-19 metrics and protocols.

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>