

UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1908 150TH STREET/HWY 46 NORTH, BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810 PHONE: 715-825-3515 FAX: 715-825-3517 WWW.UNITY.K12.WI.US

@UNITYSCHOOL

"EXPECT GREAT THINGS"

#UNITYEAGLEPRIDE

January 2, 2022

Dear Unity Families,

We are excited for 2022! As shared at the beginning of the school year in <u>Unity' COVID-19 Return To School Plan</u>, Unity School District is committed to providing in-person learning experiences for our students. We recognize that students learn best in classrooms, with their peers, and with their teachers. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to help our students remain in school.

To help ensure that we are able to continue in-person learning without interruption, please consider these reminders about COVID mitigation strategies.

- It is important that you do not send your child to school if they are ill or are experiencing COVID related symptoms. If your child is ill, please keep them home and contact Nurse Julie at 715-825-3515 x3010.
- Consider participating in Unity's voluntary COVID Testing Program, in collaboration with the WI DHS. Unity's COVID-19 Testing Program is one of the area's most successful, having administered over 1,300 tests since the start of the school year. Currently, COVID testing is available to Unity students, staff, and their family members, regardless of symptoms, vaccination status, or COVID contact. As a reminder, the testing program is voluntary and students will not be tested without parent/guardian permission.

For specific details about Unity's onsite COVID testing clinic, please visit the COVID-19 Testing Program page on the Unity website or contact School Nurse Julie McClelland-Komorouski at x3010.

Face coverings continue to be recommended by the CDC as a COVID mitigation strategy. Unity does not require face coverings, but continues to encourage their use. The decision to wear or not wear a mask, and the type of mask, is a personal and family decision. Students should not be made to feel uncomfortable at school due to their decision to wear or not wear a mask. If you have concerns about this, please communicate with your building principal.

The CDC has updated its guidance on COVID-19 safety protocols for vaccinated, unvaccinated, exposed and positive tested persons. This new guidance reduces the isolation requirement to 5 days, dependent upon vaccination and booster status. The WI DHS is still reviewing the CDC's guidance. Questions regarding this topic may be referred to the Polk County Health Department, as it also addresses contact tracing. Please follow the guidance provided by the local health officials regarding your household's or child's isolation or quarantine status, if needed. They may be reached by phone at (715) 485-8400.

Unity is committed to providing the highest quality educational opportunities possible, yet it is important to recognize that some programming may be impacted by staff availability. Our staff has been very creative this year, adapting as needed to provide quality programming. Unity, like other school districts, continues to be impacted by substitute employee shortages, particularly to help cover when employees are absent due to COVID issues. If you are interested in becoming a substitute employee, please visit the District website's employment page for further details.

We are extremely grateful to our families and staff who continue to show great flexibility, patience, and creativity as we work together to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our students. If you have questions, please contact to Nurse Julie McClelland-Komorouski or Brandon Robinson.

Sincerely,

Brandon W. Robinson Superintendent

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