



**Health Department**  
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

In recent weeks, Marathon County has experienced an increase in cases of respiratory illnesses, including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza. In Wisconsin, the activity of these viruses has increased over the past few weeks to levels higher than would typically be expected for this time of year. Combined with COVID-19 cases, this is the first year that three severe respiratory viruses are circulating at the same time.

People who are sick with a respiratory illness (coughing, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, etc.) are encouraged to consult with their health care provider regarding getting medically evaluated, including getting tested for COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and/or other respiratory viruses. Those who test positive for a respiratory virus such as RSV, influenza, or COVID-19 should stay home and away from others. Children, who attend school or early childcare programs, should follow their school's exclusion policy if they have symptoms or test positive for a respiratory illness.

**Everyday actions can prevent the spread of these viruses, including:**

- washing your hands often with soap and water
- covering coughs and sneezes
- staying home when sick
- getting vaccinated, if eligible.

Included with this letter is information on [RSV](#), [Influenza](#), and [COVID-19](#).

If you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact your healthcare provider.

We are committed to ensuring that you have a safe and healthy winter, and remain available to you, should you have any questions about the trends we are seeing.

Sincerely,



Becky Mroczenski, RN BSN  
Communicable Disease Manager