



Vernon County Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Notice to Parents Regarding COVID-19 for Return to School 2020-2021

Dear Parent:

Kind regards from the Vernon County Health Department. Our staff, in coordination with the Vernon County Emergency Operations Center would like to provide you with some information regarding COVID-19 prior to the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges thus far this year and the upcoming 2020-2021 school year will be no exception. We must all remember that this is an ever-changing situation and what may be true today, may not be true tomorrow.

The Health Department would like to share with you the process for contacting patients/parents (contact tracing) of a lab confirmed positive case that may occur during the school year. We hope that this will help answer questions you may have and help assist everyone in preparing and managing COVID-19 infections during the upcoming school year.

To start, when a positive test result is identified the following steps will occur:

- 1) The Health Department will be notified via the Wisconsin Electronic Surveillance System (WEDSS) of positive test result.
- 2) A nurse from the health department, from the county in which you reside, will contact the patient and/or parents of the positive test results within 24-48 hours.
- 3) Any patient that **tests positive will be directed to isolate at home until a minimum of 10 days from symptoms onset, improvement of symptoms and 72 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication occurs.** If the patient is without symptoms and tests positive, isolation for 10 days will start from the date that the patient was tested positive.
- 4) The nurse will discuss with the parent and/or child which people they might have come in contact with while they were considered infectious with COVID-19.
- 5) The nurse will then ask for the names and numbers to contact those people that may be at risk of getting sick. The nurse will not share information about who the positive patient is, unless the patient and/or parents have given us permission to do so.
- 6) If your child is old enough to identify who they came within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes to, then those people will be directed to self-isolate. If they are too young to understand this questioning, it is possible that your child's entire classroom will be asked to isolate at home for 14 days, rather than 10 days. This is because the COVID-19 virus can take up to 14 days to make

someone ill, therefore that is why we would ask that your child remain at home for the entire 14 days.

- 7) A liaison staff member from the school (either a school nurse or designee by the school) will also be in contact with the Health Department to coordinate care and discuss any other potential contacts within the school that may need to be notified.
- 8) A COVID-19 positive case will be considered recovered and able to return to school or work once the following scenarios have occurred:
 - a. A patient that tested positive has remained fever free for three days without the use of fever reducing medication, 10 days have passed since the start of symptoms and they have improvement of symptoms.
 - b. Students or teachers identified as a close contact of a lab confirmed case, has remained home for the full 14 days and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.
 - c. Family members identified as close contacts to a positive case will work the local health department staff for return to work/school directives.

******Please be advised that a return to school or work note for COVID-19 related illnesses will not be required this school year.***

You can keep up to date on all COVID-19 related information by visiting the Vernon County Health Department Website or visiting us on Facebook.

https://www.vernoncounty.org/departments/public_health_department/index.php

The Vernon County Emergency Operations Center is currently open Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Question? Call 608-637-5292 or 608-637-5251.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Amy Kleiber, RN, BAN
Deputy Section Chief, Vernon County Emergency Operations Center
Vernon County Health Department