



Important COVID-19 Clark County School District Information

07/23/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian of Student(s),

As the 2020 school year quickly approaches, we would like to reach out to the parents, guardians, and family members who have students attending a school district located in Clark County for the 2020-2021 school year. We understand there are concerns and questions that many of you may have. All of the Clark County school districts have been working closely with the Clark County Health Department (CCHD) and their staff, to adopt safe practices, measures, and recommendations, to help keep your child(ren) safe.

Recommendations

- Please keep your child(ren) home if they are sick, even if they are experiencing mild symptoms.
- Students may be screened for symptoms prior to entering school.
- Expect your child(ren) to be sent home from school if they are sick, even if they are experiencing mild symptoms.
- Send your child(ren) to school with a face covering.
- Keep social/physical distancing of 6 feet (students and staff).

Symptoms of COVID-19 to watch for are **cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever or chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea**. Those who test positive for COVID-19 do not always experience a fever or have chills. Students should stay home if they are experiencing **any one** of the above symptoms.

Clark County School Districts will be collaborating with the CCHD if there is a case(s) of COVID-19 in your school district. If your child(ren) are named as a “close contact,” determined by the CCHD using the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) guidelines, they will need to be sent home from school as soon as possible. They will be isolated away from others in the building until they are able to be picked up from school. If your child(ren) is named as a “close contact,” they will need to quarantine at home, at all times, for 14 days from their last exposure to the individual who tested positive for COVID-19. They will not be able to return to school until they are cleared by their local health department. This is a requirement (not optional) that is standard across the state of WI per DHS. We highly encourage families to be open and upfront with their child(ren) about all expectations and possibilities that may occur during the current school year.

We ask families to please cooperate with the CCHD. During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff at the CCHD follow guidelines and recommendations set forth by the DHS, and other expert entities whom are continuously researching and gaining knowledge of the novel (new) coronavirus 2019. These guidelines and recommendations may change at any time. CCHD staff members do not make the guidelines or recommendations, but follow and enforce them at the local level, to keep our schools and community members safe.



The CCHD's mission is to promote health, prevent disease, and protect the residents of the county through partnerships and population-based services. While some individuals whom have tested positive for COVID-19 have experienced mild symptoms, severe cases have occurred in Clark County and surrounding areas. In addition, because COVID-19 is a novel (new) virus, scientists and researchers are still learning of potential long-term health effects.

In addition, the CCHD asks families, students, and staff members to be please be flexible regarding how school curriculum takes place. We understand these changes can be extremely difficult, and can be frustrating. Please be patient with your school district and local health departments whom are working hard to ensure the health and safety of those in the community. No matter how this school year may go, we encourage families to set the tone for their child(ren). Adapting to change is never easy, but by modeling positivity, your child(ren) will benefit.

Please prepare for the potential transition to complete virtual/at-home learning if there is a significant number of COVID-19 cases in your school district. This could happen at any point in time, (determined by public health officials). Knowing this potential, we strongly encourage all families to have arrangements in place.

To learn more about COVID-19 and the guidelines that the CCHD must follow, please refer to these resources.

- Department of Public Instruction Guidance for Reopening Schools: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- DHS COVID-19 Activity Level: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>
- DHS COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/resources.htm>

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child(ren) returning to their school district for the 2020-2021 school year, please contact your school district.

Sincerely,

The Clark County Health Department