

FAQS

1. Parent calls in and reports a child experiencing a symptoms.

Refer to the exclusion flow chart, if COVID-19 exclusion is not recommended exclude based on school policy.

2. One child is experiencing symptoms, what does the parent do with the other children not experiencing symptoms?

Refer to the flow chart to determine if the student experiencing symptoms should be tested for COVID-19. If the student experiencing symptoms should be tested the other children should stay home while awaiting results and quarantine themselves.

3. Student has symptoms one day and not symptoms the next, when can they return?

Refer to the flow chart to determine if the student experiencing symptoms should be tested for COVID-19, based on symptoms reported.

4. If a provider gives a note that says “may return to school” but no other diagnosis or testing done. Do we follow the doctor's note or DPI/DHS guidance?

If no testing is done or alternative diagnosis provided the child must be excluded for the COVID-19 exclusion period.

5. Is there a quarantine period required for travel for either students or staff?

You will want to consider having a school policy on this and also consider questions you may receive around quarantine of mass gathering. Refer to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/travel.htm

6. What does that family need to do if a family member tests positive for COVID-19?

All family members will need to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure to the positive case. Local public health will be following up with the positive case and their close contacts.

7. Can siblings/other family members attend school if one family member is home sick, but has a negative COVID-19 test?

Yes. However, based on diagnosis there may be an exclusion requirement according to the Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Diseases Wall Chart, based on the particular diagnosis.

8. What if a family refused COVID-Testing?

The symptomatic person and family members will need to be excluded. See School Exclusion Flow Chart for length of exclusions.

9. My child is sick. What should I do?

Keep your child at home. Please notify your school district for the reason of your child's absence and assisting with further directions.

10. My child is a close contact with one of the students or staff that was a close contact. What do I do now?

There are no restrictions on the movement or activities of a contact of a contact, as long as everyone remains well.

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11. Who is the individual that tested positive for COVID-19?

The health department and your school district will not be releasing any specific information about the identity of this individual. Local health departments will be contacting any “close contacts” via phone or letter. Please refrain from speculating about the identity of the individual.

12. Can household members of close contacts still go to work/leave the home?

If your child/household member is deemed a close contact, and they remain well (no symptoms), household members can continue to leave the home. Household members may continue to attend school and work as long as no one in the household develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. If this happens, please stay home and contact your local health department.

13. What is the school doing about cleaning/disinfecting?

Schools are given guidance on best practice cleaning/disinfecting protocols, which include but are not limited to deep cleaning of each classroom a positive individual visited while potentially infectious, and cleaning of highly-touched surfaces frequently.

14. I did not receive a phone call or letter about my child/household member being a close contact. What should I do now?

If you did not receive a phone call or letter from your local health department, your child was not identified as a close contact during a joint investigation by the school district, the health department, and other local health departments. You should continue monitoring your child for symptoms. If your child does not develop symptoms, they are able to continue attending school, unless your family would prefer to use virtual learning opportunities (if applicable for your school district).

15. My child was a close contact. Should I get them tested?

If your child/household member is a close contact to a positive individual, you will receive instructions from your local health department. Currently, it is recommended to not be tested until at least 48 hours after an exposure to a positive individual. If a close contact tests negative, they will still need to finish out their 14-day quarantine. It is recommended from DHS and CDC to not use a negative COVID-19 test to rule out infection.

16. My child/household member lives outside the county that the school is located, how does that affect contact tracing, notification of close contacts, etc.?

Positive cases, contact tracing, etc., is all conducted by the jurisdiction/county that your child/household member permanently resides in. Example: Fred tests positive for COVID-19. Fred attends a school district in Clark County, but resides at home with his parents in Marathon County. The Marathon County Health Department will monitor and follow-up with Fred, along with contact tracing all of Fred’s close contacts. Close contacts will be followed by their local health departments. Example: Fred was in contact with Wilma while at school in Clark County, and Wilma resides at home with her parents in Taylor County. Taylor County will monitor and follow-up with Wilma. The Clark County Health Department will assist all surrounding local health departments as needed. All of the area local health departments will be working together closely throughout the school year.