

COVID INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Hello Parents and Guardians,

As we look to start school, so many things are new and different to us. Here is some COVID specific information to help prepare for the best school year possible. If you have any health concerns or questions, please reach out to me at kwalsh@durand.k12.wi.us or call (715) 672-8919

COVID can present in many ways. Symptoms include cough, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, chills, headache, muscle pain, nausea, loss of taste or smell, shivering, sore throat, runny nose/congestion and unusual fatigue. As you can probably guess, this makes it incredibly challenging to differentiate between COVID and other colds/illness/chronic health conditions. To help in this, I am asking for help from all families. **It is more important than ever to communicate health issues or concerns AHEAD of time.** This helps us establish a “baseline” for your student. If there are seasonal allergies, chronic health issues, or flare-ups we want to know about this!

In addition, it is important to work with your provider to see how you can best treat symptoms. Is there an allergy medication that would benefit your student? Do they need their asthma treatment plan reevaluated? If there are ways to treat or minimize chronic symptoms, now is a great time to work with your provider to do so.

Please understand that in the health rooms we will be following the guidance put forth by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). This guidance states that if a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID (as listed above); they are to be sent home from school. In order to return, they must have a negative COVID test and be symptom free for 24 hours. If your child does not get a COVID test, they must wait 10 days (and 72 hours symptom free) to return to school. If a medical provider diagnoses another illness (influenza, hand foot and mouth, etc.), we will follow that exclusion criteria and return plan. Attached is a document from DPI that may be helpful to print out, or bookmark for more information on return to school after illness.

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Returning_to_School_After_COVID-19.pdf

We are also asking all families to screen the student daily before coming to school. Please see the form included in this email titled **“Pepin Area School District Parent/Guardian Attestation”**. You must be able to answer each question appropriately for your child to come to school.

This is a big change for all of us. Stricter exclusion criteria may end up excluding some children (that are ill for non-COVID related illness) for longer than we are used to. I ask that you work as a partner with our health room staff, understanding that we are all doing our best to work through this pandemic. It is also important to point out that guidance on exclusion criteria is periodically updated as DPI and CDC learn more about this novel virus. We are committed to following the best practice guidelines, and will update our school protocol accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to reach to me to discuss specific health concerns.

Thank you,

Katie Walsh, RN-BSN, School Nurse

Pepin Area School District Parent/Guardian Attestation

The Pepin Area School District asks that a Parent/ Guardian check your student's temperature each morning prior to sending them to school. (If you need help getting a thermometer, please reach out to the school nurse). In general, a normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. A fever is considered over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Any student with a fever should stay home (see exclusion criteria below and refer to the school illness policy)

In addition to a daily temperature check, please review the following questions daily prior to sending your student to school:

1. Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?
 - a. Yes-The child should not be at school. The child can return 14 days after the last time he or she had close contact with someone with COVID-19, or as listed below.
 - b. No-The child can be at school if the child is not experiencing symptoms.
2. Does your child have any of these symptoms?
 - a. Fever
 - b. Chills
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. New cough
 - e. New loss of taste or smell

If a child has any of these symptoms, they should stay home, stay away from other people, and you should call the child's health care provider.

3. Since they were last at school, has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - a. If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they meet the criteria below.

A child can return to school when a family member can ensure that they can answer YES to ALL three questions:

- a. Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms?
- b. Has it been at least 3 days since the child had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)?
- c. Has it been at least 3 days since the child's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

If a child has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours. If a child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If a child has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they should remain out of school for 14 days since the last known contact, unless they test positive, in which case, criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine even if they test negative.