

COVID-19: Exclusion, Quarantine, & Re-Entry

Boscobel Area Schools

Updated 1/19/22

During the pandemic, school staff are encouraged to use a liberal approach when determining whether to send a student home due to illness. In other words, if a student is displaying mild symptoms, it may be best to send them home. This decision-making can reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to one or more students or staff in the school. The symptom criteria below apply to COVID-19-related exclusions for in-person instruction, and are the decisions of the school district. (Other symptoms may also require exclusion for different communicable diseases, as per usual.)

If you have questions about exclusion, isolation, or quarantine, please call the school nurse (375-4165, #2) or send an email to nurse@boscobel.k12.wi.us. An alternate learning option is available for students who must be away from the school. To request make-up work or seek remote learning for your child during exclusion, isolation, or quarantine, call the building secretary or contact your child's teacher(s).

EXCLUSION

Your child/student may be sent home or excluded (from school and school activities) if any of the following occur:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) or were diagnosed with COVID-19 by a health care provider and have not yet finished their isolation period.
- They have reported or demonstrated the following symptom(s) at school:
 - Any one of the following symptoms
 - Shortness of breath/trouble breathing
 - New loss of sense of taste or smell
 - **OR** at least two of the following symptoms
 - Cough
 - Fever (100-100.4 or higher) or chills
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Runny nose or nasal congestion
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Symptomatic staff and students will be isolated and asked to wear a mask until they leave the building. Parents should have a plan in place for students to be picked up promptly if they become sick at school. School staff will follow school board criteria for exclusion and for re-entry to school. We will also consider information provided from health care providers.

A family may choose exclusion, testing, or medical evaluation.

Exclusion

May return to in-person learning and/or activities (with improved symptoms and fever-free for 24 hours) after 5 days

Testing

May seek a COVID-19 test. (PCR testing is more accurate. Home tests are not accepted.)

- If negative, may return to in-person learning and activities with improved symptoms and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Boscobel Area Schools will require proof of the negative test result. This can be delivered to the building office, emailed to nurse@boscobel.k12.wi.us or faxed to the school nurse at 608-375-4192.
- If positive, please notify the school or school nurse as soon as able. Contact your local county health department and/or health care provider for guidance.

Medical Evaluation

If you seek medical care and your child is diagnosed with something other than COVID-19, you should follow your health care provider's advice and provide a medical note to the school indicating the date when your child can safely return to in-person instruction.

Household members may continue to attend school and work as long as they remain asymptomatic and do not test positive for COVID-19. These individuals must mask at school for 10 days regardless of exemptions or current masking protocol.

Remote learning for students can be arranged with the teacher(s) or the building office.

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through droplets created when we cough, sneeze, talk, sing or laugh. The following guidelines will help to prevent further spread of illness and COVID-19 at our school: get vaccinated if eligible, wear a face covering when in public, distance as able, wash hands or sanitize frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, monitor for symptoms, stay home when sick, avoid crowded spaces, and avoid spending time with others when they are sick. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: cough, trouble breathing, loss of taste or smell, fever (>100°F)/chills, muscle/body aches, headache, fatigue, runny nose or nasal congestion, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Most people who get COVID-19 have mild illness, similar to having a cold or the flu. However, in others COVID-19 can cause severe illness. Seek medical attention or call 9-1-1 if you have any of the following warning signs: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to be awakened, or bluish lips or face.

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

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02598a.pdf>

CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION

When a close contact is identified, it triggers a specific set of public health recommendations for symptom monitoring, quarantine, and testing.

A close contact has occurred in any of the following situations happened while an individual (student or staff person) spent time with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, even if they did not have symptoms during their infectious period. You are a close contact if:

- You had direct physical contact (hug, kiss, handshake, etc.) with the person.
- You spent 15 minutes or more (cumulative total) within 6 feet of the positive person in a 24 hour period.
- You had contact with the positive person’s respiratory secretions (coughed/sneezed on, contact with a dirty tissue, or shared a drinking glass, food, towels or other personal items).
- You live with the person or stayed overnight at least one night in the same household with the person (unless strict separation was maintained-meaning no shared bathroom, bedroom or common spaces).

Exemption: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks. The exception does not apply to staff or adults in the classroom setting.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION

The standard and safest quarantine for close contacts is 10 days from last date of contact (day 1 is the first day AFTER the last date of contact), with release (return to school or to activities) on day 10. Isolation for a positive case is 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR, if asymptomatic, 10 days from the date the positive sample was taken. Contact tracing for a positive case starts 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms OR, if asymptomatic, the date the positive sample was obtained. Tracing for close contacts to a positive case continues through the quarantine period if there was contact during that time period. (Note that within the same household, the last day of contact to the positive person will be the end of the positive person’s 10-day isolation period if household members can’t properly isolate from each other.)

Close Contact Quarantine

The full and safest quarantine period for close contacts is 10 days. However, as of January 10, 2022, the following close contact quarantine protocols will be in effect in the district.

1. Close contacts who are ASYMPTOMATIC may choose to quarantine at home or at school. Close contacts who attend school during their quarantine period must mask through the 10-day quarantine period (no exceptions or exemptions and this applies to all school-related events/activities).
2. Close contacts who experience any symptoms must quarantine until they produce a negative test result, or they will be treated as a positive case and not may attend school or school-related activities during the quarantine period.
3. All close contacts (or their parents/guardians) must complete a daily home screening if the close contact is attending school during a close contact quarantine period. See also “Home Health Screenings & Absences.”

Vaccination status, positive antibody status, or previously positive COVID-19 status are not pertinent under current district protocols since asymptomatic close contacts are no longer required to quarantine. In all of these cases, unless positive COVID-19 test results (completed by an acceptable, approved testing provider) are confirmed within last 90 days, anyone who is a SYMPTOMATIC close contact will be treated as a positive case. Asymptomatic close contacts may participate in school-related activities and athletics (unless SWAL or WIAA is more restrictive with their close contact requirements) and these individuals must wear a face mask for the full 10-day quarantine period (no exceptions or exemptions).

There will be numerous quarantine avenues specific to individual cases. Some factors affecting quarantine decisions are: whether mitigation measures (such as masking or physical distancing) are in place, vaccination

status, if conditions for immunity are met, whether individuals are symptomatic, and test results (including type of COVID-19 test performed).

HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

A household contact is anyone who lives (or lived temporarily) with the COVID-19 case for at least one night in the same room or household during the infectious period. Siblings or household members of symptomatic individuals may continue to attend school as long as the household members do not have symptoms. These individuals must mask at school for 10 days regardless of exemptions or current masking protocol. Household members of a close contact do not need to quarantine.

ATHLETE RE-ENTRY

If an athlete tests positive for COVID-19 or is clinically diagnosed with COVID-19, they will follow the district's isolation period and should seek guidance from their primary health care provider and the local public health department for release to return to activity. As with any positive case, the presence of symptoms may extend a quarantine period. If a vaccinated athlete is identified as a close contact, the ASYMPTOMATIC athlete does not have to quarantine and may return to activity IF masked during the 10-day quarantine period. If the activity/event is outside and there is no close contact or sharing of equipment, masking during the 10-day quarantine period will be considered on a case-by case basis. Please also refer to SWAL and WIAA COVID-19 guidance.

Families may find the following document (“Next Steps-Close Contacts of Someone with COVID-19”) helpful:

- DHS <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02598a.pdf>

References/Resources:

- DHS <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- DPI <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- WHO <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>