

COVID-19: Overview

Boscobel Area Schools

Updated 8/12/22

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus discovered in 2019. The virus spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Some people who are infected may not have symptoms. For people who have symptoms, illness can range from mild to severe. Adults 65 years and older and people of any age with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness. (<https://www.cdc.gov/dotw/covid-19/index.html>)

COVID-19 is a communicable, respiratory disease that can cause severe illness in some people. COVID-19 is easily spread from person to person through respiratory droplets and aerosol particles released by people with COVID-19 during coughing, sneezing, singing, talking, and breathing. (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>)

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction offers this list of COVID-19 symptoms to be used in the school setting.

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms

What can I do to prevent COVID-19 infection?

In addition to basic health and hygiene practices, like [handwashing](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends some prevention actions at all COVID-19 Community Levels, which include:

- [Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Improving Ventilation](#)
- [Getting Tested for COVID-19 If Needed](#)
- [Following Recommendations for What to Do If You Have Been Exposed](#)
- [Staying Home If You Have Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#)
- [Seeking Treatment If You Have COVID-19 and Are at High Risk of Getting Very Sick](#)
- [Avoiding Contact with People Who Have Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#)

Any plan for in-person learning comes with some inherent risk of contracting COVID-19. The school board makes decisions regarding COVID-19 protocols.

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>