



September 1, 2020

Greetings Parents/Guardians,

As we continue to deal with the pandemic within our schools, we are continuing to receive guidance from Outagamie County Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the CDC. Posted on the front page of [our website](#) is a copy of the Health Screening checklist that all parents/guidelines should be screening their children before they come to school every day. [Health Screening Checklist 2020-21](#)
[Health Screening Checklist 2020-21](#)

Also Included are the [Guidelines for Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin - August 2020](#)

[Guidelines for Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin - August 2020](#)

If you go to page 20-21, it explains different scenarios of when a person should Isolate and Quarantine, as well as, Close Contacts to a COVID-19 Case.

Yesterday, in an Outagamie County Public Health meeting they reiterated the scenario on the bottom of page 20 moving onto page 21. It states:

"Students and staff who are **not tested** for COVID-19 infection but **meet the symptom** criteria described above in Exclusion from In-person Instruction:

- The individual must remain home for at least 10 days since the first symptoms began AND be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours AND with improvement of symptoms.
- Siblings and household members should follow the Close Contact to a COVID-19 Case below.
- If diagnosed with another condition that explains the symptoms, such as influenza or strep throat, no isolation or quarantine of close contacts is necessary. Follow guidance from the health care provider and exclusion period of the diagnosed disease as listed on the [Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Diseases Wall Chart.](#)"

In short that means that if your child meets the symptom criteria outlined on page 18 of the document or the [Health Screening Checklist 2020-21](#), the individual must **remain home for at least 10 days** since the first symptoms began, AND be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours AND with improvement of symptoms. Also, the **siblings and household members should follow the Close Contact to a COVID-19 Case and quarantine for 14 days**. This is the "best practice" recommended by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to control the spread within schools.

Now, some students may have to miss extended periods of time throughout the school year because of the best practice. We have mounted in all the 4K- grade 8 classrooms a camera that displays only the front whiteboard of the classroom. Depending on the grade level, students will have the opportunity to join virtually and watch a/some lesson(s) for the day from home. We are already using these cameras in the classrooms and are currently working out the little kinks in this new system. However, students are already able to watch some lessons from home.



Below is guidance from Wisconsin Department of Health Services:

Also included is the WI-DHS [COVID-19 Health Alert # 15: Wisconsin Department of Health Services Continues to Recommend Testing for Individuals with Recent Close Contact with COVID-19](#). This alert is in response to testing guidance verbiage changes by the CDC suggesting that asymptomatic individuals do not need to be tested.

In summary:

“At this time, Wisconsin DHS continues to strongly recommend COVID-19 testing for all individuals in the following groups:

1. People with any symptoms of COVID-19
2. People who have been in close contact of a person with COVID-19, regardless of symptoms
3. People who have been instructed by a public health agency or a health care provider to get tested for the purposes of a public health investigation or infection control activities”

This is going to be an unprecedented school year and we all just need to be flexible as situations arise. Please know that Holy Spirit Catholic School will continue to work closely with the Outagamie County Health Department for guidance as situations arise. I, personally, will not be making decisions on my own, but following the guidance from the professionals. Our goal is to be in person as much as possible, but still have practices and protocols in place to keep all students and staff as safe as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions.

God bless,

Michael R. Zuleger
Principal