

NURSE NOTES #7

Greetings Gull Lake Community Schools Families,

I wanted to send out a general reminder regarding when to contact GLCS regarding COVID-19 concerns.

Please continue to alert Nurse Megan (269-548-3529 or masper@gulllakecs.org) or your student's school office if:

- Your student or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19
- Your student or family came in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- Any questions or concerns

Gull Lake Community Schools is committed to providing as safe a learning environment as possible, to help achieve this we need to be aware of any positive cases or quarantines to ensure that students or staff who may pose a risk to others have been properly cleared to return to in person learning and or extracurricular activities.

GLCS continues to take guidance from the Kalamazoo Health and Human Services Department regarding COVID-19 protocols for positive cases as well as quarantines. Determining how long a student or family needs to quarantine is based on several factors and can be confusing. Please contact Nurse Megan so that she can work through this with you to ensure that your student is out the proper amount of time and not be putting others at risk.

Students who are in school and or sports may be required to quarantine at one time or another due to being considered a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. A reminder that a close contact is someone who was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more (consecutive or cumulative) of a positive person with or without a mask. The positive person may be a classmate, teammate, another student on the bus, lunchmate, friend etc. When GLCS learns of a positive case, the contact tracing team determines when the positive person was considered to be infectious (can spread COVID-19 to others) and what days overlap with when they were present at school and other school related activities. The team then speaks with the student's teachers to determine who was seated within 6 feet of the positive person in each class. If the positive student rides the bus, participates in extracurricular activities or receives any special services those interactions are considered as well. Occasionally an entire classroom must quarantine, but usually only a few students per class. Close contacts must quarantine for 10 days starting from the date of last close contact with the person positive for COVID-19.

Unfortunately, 10 days is the shortest amount of time a person must quarantine, and a negative test does not change the date of return. 10 days is the shortened quarantine period, families must continue to monitor their student for symptoms for the full 14 days from close contact. If you think your student may need to quarantine but are not sure, please reach out to nurse Megan.

Please contact me with any questions.

Nurse Megan
269-548-3529
masper@gulllakecs.org