



Parent COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

This document is current as of the date in the header. It will be updated according to changes in CDC, CCHD, PHMDC, DHS, and/or DPI requirements and guidance.

Board of Education Decision

How did the Board of Education decide what COVID-19 mitigation strategies needed to be in place for the 2021-22 school year?

The Board considered many pieces of information when making their decisions regarding mitigation efforts that needed to be in place for the 2021-22 school year. The Board considered survey results from parents which indicated a significant majority wanted face coverings to be optional across the District. The Board also had information from the Centers of Disease and Control, American Association of Pediatrics, Department of Health Services, and Columbia and Dane County Health Departments that recommended universal face coverings for all students. The Board also considered information regarding the uptick in COVID-19 cases in the state and area and also received updated information on the COVID-19 Delta variant from UW researchers.

What decisions did the Board of Education make at their August 9, 2021 meeting regarding COVID-19?

The Board made the following decisions which were sent out to all families on August 10, 2021

Face Coverings

4K-5 grade students: Face coverings will be required for students, staff, and visitors indoors at the Primary School, Elementary School, and OSC. Face coverings will not be required outdoors.

6th grade students: Face coverings will be required for students, staff, and visitors indoors until the entire 6th grade class becomes eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Face coverings will not be required outdoors.

7-12 grade students: Face coverings are **highly recommended**, but not required for students, staff, and visitors indoors at the Middle School and High School (except 6th graders which are required to wear face coverings indoors). Face coverings are not required outdoors.

Quarantines

Students who are in close contact with a COVID positive person will only need to quarantine if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Caregivers will be informed if their child is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

If the close contact is a household member the student will be required to quarantine unless vaccinated (please see specific quarantine information under *Positive COVID-19 Case* section of this document).

Symptomatic Students/Staff

Students and staff who are symptomatic, will need to be excluded from school pending a negative PCR test. Students and staff are considered symptomatic if either of the following is true:

1. In the past 24 hours, the person has had at least 1 of the following symptoms as new or above normal baseline: shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, loss of taste or smell.
2. Within the past 24 hours, the person has had at least 2 of the following symptoms as new or above baseline: fever, or chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, fatigue, nasal congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea (at least 2 times in 24 hours).

Busing

Students and drivers are required to wear face coverings on a bus until further notice per CDC order, so the Board did not take any action regarding face coverings on buses.

COVID Testing

The District will engage with the Department of Human Services to partner with a vendor to provide onsite COVID-19 testing for students and staff who are symptomatic and/or close contacts. More information about this process will follow once the District is connected formally through a vendor.

Communication Regarding Positive COVID-19 Cases in the District

The District will only contact families if their child is considered a close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.

Questions about Face Coverings

What is considered a face covering?

A face covering is a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. The best face covering should be a tightly woven fabric with multiple layers. A face covering does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, fleece gaiters or masks with vents that open without filtering.

You may choose a two layered facial covering or medical mask for your student. Be sure that the masks fit properly. [Link to more information about proper fit, taking mask off, washing, storing, etc..](#)

Why would I want to wear a face covering at school if I could choose not to?

The medical community is near unanimous in their opinion that facial covering/masks help to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is significant because in an environment where everyone is wearing a facial mask we could change the distance from 6 feet to 3 feet and still have a beneficial effect on reducing the spread. In fact, wearing a face covering is so beneficial along with other mitigation that the CDC has recommended when an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and has been wearing a face covering, that any of the close contacts who have also been wearing face covering do not need to be quarantined because the risk of being exposed is greatly reduced. Face coverings help keep kids in school because there will be less spread of illness. [Link here for more information.](#)

Why does a 4-year-old need to mask up while an 18 year old unvaccinated student does not need to mask up/optional?

The Board made this decision because students in 4K-6 grade are not eligible to be vaccinated. Caregivers have had the opportunity for their children in grades 7-12 to be vaccinated. They have had the choice to vaccinate their children or not. Caregivers of those students 4K-6 have not had that choice at this point.

Why are kids allowed to go mask less during recess/close contact without a mask but must wear a mask while in-school?

The CDC and DHS are not recommending face coverings outdoors as the chances of transmission is minimal. However, students may want to choose to wear a mask in a crowded outdoor setting or when they are going to be in close proximity with each other, especially if unvaccinated.

What will you do with a child at the 4K-6 level who is unable to wear a mask?

The District had very little issues with students in that age group wearing a face covering last year and would expect that the District will have little issue this year. Our students adapt to things like this very well, much better than we as adults often adapt to changes like this

Are face covering required for people in the Primary School, Elementary School, or OSC before or after school?

Face coverings are required for students and staff 4K-6 during the school day, but after students leave for the day face coverings become highly recommended for those in the building. This includes those that rent out the facility or our daycares. If it is a school-based activity or CREW activity, the District will follow face covering guidelines for that age group

Are face coverings required on a bus?

There is currently an order by the CDC in place that requires face coverings on all buses for all passengers (adults and students). This includes to and from school, for field trips, and for all co-curriculars regardless of the age of the student. Bus drivers are not required to wear a mask when they are the only person on the bus.

If an unmasked student or staff (7th -12 grade) is a close contact, can the District require them to wear a face covering for 14 days from the last date of exposure during their symptom monitoring period?

Students and staff will be highly recommended to wear a face covering for 14 days after a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case which is following the CDC, DHS, and county guidance. However, students or staff will not be required to put on a face covering at the 7-12 grades.

Can I get medical or religious accommodation from the face covering requirements in the school district?

The District is required to provide medical accommodations and accommodations for sincerely held religious beliefs by state law. Families who are requesting these types of accommodations can request a form from the District office. Once the form is submitted and completed an appointment will be made with the building principal to review the caregivers request for accommodation.

Delta Variant

Why is the Delta variant of COVID such a big deal?

On July 27th the CDC announced new guidance for vaccinated individuals who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Our once low COVID number began to creep up slowly after the fourth of July holiday. What was determined was that the new Delta variant has more breakthrough cases in people who were fully immunized then the previous COVID-19 variants. Fully vaccinated individuals are still protected from severe illness and most likely will not need to be hospitalized. However, with the Delta variant, vaccinated individuals can have high viral loads and can spread the virus to others just like unvaccinated individuals. Viruses want to survive so they change and adapt over time. The more a virus is passed around the more opportunity it has to change. The concern is that eventually the virus will have changed so much that our vaccines may lose their effectiveness. Hence the reason that we are seeing masking orders in our area again.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Will there be a daily COVID screener sent this year like there was last year?

No, there will not be a daily screener, but the District will be sending out an email every Sunday to remind students and caregivers to monitor for symptoms. You know best when your child is sick or is getting sick see the symptom list below. Keeping ill children home until test results are known helps prevent others from getting sick. COVID like symptoms can look like the common cold. The top three symptoms we have seen in positive COVID cases in our district are headache, runny nose, and sore throat. If your child is sick please call the office of the school your child is attending to let them know.

When should my student stay home from school?

- In the past 24 hours, have you had at least 1 of the following symptoms as new or above your normal baseline: shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, loss of taste or smell?
- Within the past 24 hours, have you had at least 2 of the following symptoms as new or above your baseline: fever, or chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, fatigue, nasal congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea (at least 2 times in 24 hours)?
- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 with or without symptoms in the past 10 days?
- Have you had close contact (A total of 15 mins added together within a 24 hour period of time and within 3-6 feet) in the past 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
 - If so, students should monitor for symptoms and consider masking when indoors in public places. Our district is not requiring quarantine for close contact but families may choose to follow the DHS guidance for quarantine [Link to DHS here.](#)
 - If the **close contact is a household member** then they will be **required to quarantine**. Call the School or Public health department for guidance

What happens if my child or I as a staff member have symptoms of COVID-19?

Notify the office or your supervisor of the illness and they will let you know the next steps. Staff will screen your student over the phone to see if COVID testing is recommended and will let you know when there is access to testing at school. Your child will not be tested for COVID unless your consent is given. We understand that some families may choose to not test or have testing done with their health care provider.

If a student/staff presents with COVID like symptoms they will need to get a NAAT or PCR based COVID test. Copy of the test must be shared with the school.

- **If negative COVID test:** they may return after feeling better, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and overall symptoms improving.
- **If positive COVID test:** they may return 10 days after symptoms started and they may return after feeling better, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and overall symptoms improving.
- **If no COVID test:** they may return 10 days after symptoms started and when they are feeling better, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and overall symptoms improving.

Positive COVID-19 Case

What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19 in the school district?

If a person tests positive then the person isolates for 10 days from either the start of symptoms or the positive test. If symptoms develop after the positive test the isolation period should be 10 days from the start of symptoms.

What if someone tests positive for COVID-19 but does not have symptoms?

If a person tests positive then the person isolates for 10 days from either the start of symptoms or the positive test. If symptoms develop after the positive test the isolation period should be 10 days from the start of symptoms.

When can a student return if their COVID like symptoms have resolved and they decline testing?

Isolate for 10 days after the start of symptoms. They may return on day 11 if they have not had a fever and have not taken any fever reducing medications in the last 24 hours. Symptoms must be significantly improved.

Does my child have to quarantine after a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case?

The Board of Education decided that students/staff will not be required to quarantine after being a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case unless the close contact is a household member.

If the close contact is a household member the student will be required to quarantine.

If child is NOT fully vaccinated:

- **7 day, with a test:** Quarantine may be chosen for 7 days for those who are **not fully vaccinated** and return to normal activities on day 8 if you test (NAAT or PCR based test) on day 6 or 7 and have a negative test.
 - **4k-6th grade:** Require mask for the full 14 days and continued symptom monitoring.
 - **7th -12 grade:** It is strongly recommended but not required to continue to wear a mask and symptom monitor for the full 14 days.
- **10 days without a test:** Quarantine may be chosen for 10 days for people who are not fully vaccinated and who remain asymptomatic, provided that daily symptom monitoring and mask wear is strongly recommended for the full 14 day period. No testing required.

If child is fully vaccinated: Those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, but should:

- Get tested 3-5 days after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Wearing a mask when you are indoor and out in public for 14 days or until your test result is negative. Symptom monitoring is strongly encouraged for the full 14 days after the last day of contact. If positive, isolate for 10 days after the first day symptoms developed.

Quarantine Recommendations and Requirements

When we receive a close contact notification from the school what does that mean?

The District does not require students who are close contacts to quarantine unless the person has COVID-like symptoms (*See additional information under **COVID-symptoms and Quarantine Recommendations and Requirements** in this document*).

When you receive a notification that your student is a close contact we encourage you to closely monitor for COVID like symptoms for 14 days after the last date of exposure. Students and staff will be highly recommended to wear a face covering for 14 days after a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case which is following the CDC, DHS, and county guidance. However, students or staff will not be required to put on a face covering at the 7-12 grades.

What exactly is a close contact?

A close contact is defined per the Department of Health and Humans Services as: [Link to document](#).

“**Close contact** has occurred if **any** of the following situations happened while an individual (student, teacher, or staff person) spent time with the person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, even if they did not have symptoms during their infectious period (2 days before symptoms start or positive test is obtained):

- Had direct **physical contact** with the person (e.g., a hug, kiss, or handshake).

- Had **contact with the person's respiratory secretions** (e.g., coughed or sneezed on; contact with a dirty tissue; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).
- **Lives with or stayed overnight** for at least one night in a household with the person, unless strict separation was maintained. This includes no shared bathroom, bedrooms, or spaces.
- Were **within 6 feet of the person for more than 15 minutes**. This includes single encounters of more than 15 minutes OR multiple encounters within a single day adding up to more than 15 minutes.

Exception: 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.
- **NOTE:** Exception **DOES NOT** apply to teachers, staff or other adults in classroom settings.

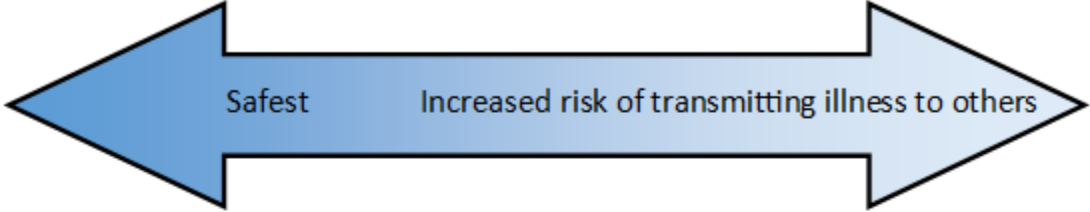
Should my child quarantine after being a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case?

The District does not require students who are close contacts to quarantine, unless you have COVID like symptoms.

The CDC, DHS, and county health department all recommend that students/staff quarantine after being a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If families/staff choose to quarantine, the close contact quarantine options are:

- **14 day:** If you are a close contact to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 public health care professionals recommend that you quarantine for 14 days and symptom monitor. This continues to be the safest strategy for preventing asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19.
- **7 day, with a test:** Quarantine may be chosen for 7 days and return to normal activities on day 8 if you test (NAAT or PCR based test) on day 6 or 7 and have a negative test. It is recommended to continue to wear a mask and symptom monitor for the full 14 days.
- **10 days without a test:** Quarantine may be chosen for 10 days for people who are not fully vaccinated and who remain asymptomatic, provided that daily symptom monitoring and mask wear is strongly recommended for the full 14 day period. No testing required.
- **Fully vaccinated people:** As a result of the new delta variant fully immunized individuals may still get infected and transmit COVID19, the CDC recently revised recommendations for those who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, but should: • Get tested 3-5 days after an exposure to someone with COVID-19. • Wearing a mask when you are indoor and out in public for 14 days or until your test result is negative. Symptom monitoring is strongly encouraged for the full 14 days after the last day of contact. If positive, isolate for 10 days after the first day symptoms developed.

Quarantine options for close contacts based on public health guidance



14 day quarantine:	7 day with a negative test:	10 day quarantine:	No quarantine:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Isolate from others and symptom monitor for the full 14 days.If symptoms develop isolated and obtain COVID test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PCR based COVID test on day 6-7. If negative may return on day 8.Wear mask and monitor symptoms for the full 14 daysIf symptoms develop isolated and obtain COVID test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No test required, no symptoms developed during this time. Return to activities on day 11.Wear a mask and symptom monitor for the full 14 days.If symptoms develop isolated and obtain COVID test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wearing a mask when you are indoor and out in public for 14 days or until your test result is negative.Symptom monitoring is strongly encouraged for the full 14 days after the last day of contact.Notify School and obtain COVID test if COVID like symptoms develop.

Fully vaccinated individuals: With the delta variant there have been some people who have spread COVID to others. The vaccine continues to be very effective at preventing serious COVID illness.

- Those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, meaning it has been at least 14 days since you received your last dose in the vaccine series and were in close contact with someone with COVID-19, do not have to quarantine, but should:
 - Get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test

Is the District quarantining siblings of positive COVID-19 cases?
Yes. If the close contact is a household member the student will be required to quarantine.

If child is NOT fully vaccinated:

- **7 day, with a test:** Quarantine may be chosen for 7 days for those who are **not fully vaccinated** and return to normal activities on day 8 if you test (NAAT or PCR based test) on day 6 or 7 and have a negative test.
 - **4k-6th grade:** Require mask for the full 14 days and continued symptom monitoring.
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If child is fully vaccinated: Those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, but should:

- Get tested 3-5 days after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Wearing a mask when you are indoor and out in public for 14 days or until your test result is negative. Symptom monitoring is strongly encouraged for the full 14 days after the last day of contact. If positive, isolate for 10 days after the first day symptoms developed.

Vaccination

What percentage of 7-12 grade students are fully vaccinated?

The District does not know what percentage of 7-12 grade students are fully vaccinated. The District is discussing whether we ask parents to volunteer this information about their child(ren), but have not made that decision as of yet.

At what age is my child eligible to be vaccinated?

COVID-19 vaccines are free to anyone aged 12 or older. Reach out to your healthcare provider to obtain a vaccine. Currently Pfizer is the only vaccine for those under 18 years old. If you do not have a medical provider check with Hometown Pharmacy in Lodi or Columbia County Public Health Department for a list of vaccine clinic times. [Link to Columbia County public Health](#)

Does my child need a booster shot for their vaccine?

There is some discussion at the federal level of offering a vaccine booster 8 months after a person completed their COVID-19 vaccine series. This is just in a discussion phase at this point and no recommendation has been made.

COVID-19 Testing

Is the District going to provide onsite COVID-19 testing? [Link to COVID testing at school](#)

The District is working with the Department of Health Services to provide onsite testing for students and staff at the school free of charge. Students and staff who are symptomatic or who are considered close contacts can be tested. Parents who provide transportation to the testing site within the district will also be eligible to be tested, but currently other people in the household would not be eligible for the testing under current state guidelines. People attending a school event would also be eligible to be tested. The District will be sending out more information about this in the coming weeks.

Can the District test my child without my permission?

The District cannot test students under the age of 18 without their parents' permission. There will be an online platform in which families give permission and have results reported to them.

Are there other places in the community that will provide testing?

COVID-19 testing is currently available through Sauk Prairie Healthcare [Link here](#) , the Lodi Clinic(Call if they are your healthcare provider (608)592-3296) , and Hometown Pharmacy [Hometown link](#).

What if my child has symptoms, but I do not get them tested for COVID-19?

Children who have COVID-19 symptoms may return after a negative COVID-19 test and when they are feeling better, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and overall symptoms are improving. Students who have symptoms and obtain a COVID -19 test may return 10 days after symptoms started and when they are feeling better, no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and overall symptoms improving.

When will the Pandemic End

When will this pandemic end?

The health experts, epidemiologists, who study pandemics and communicable disease have stated that there are usually multiple waves of increased rates of illness in a population for novel or new viruses. It is to be expected for us to experience times where the rate of illness increases leading to masks being required and then decrease to a point where masks may not be needed again, like what we saw in June. In the end everyone will either have received the immunization or have had the virus. At that point COVID will become endemic and will be like the common cold or flu. Until then public health's role is to prevent as much severe illness and long-term side effects from the COVID infections as possible.