



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FLORENCE COUNTY
WE POSITIVELY AFFECT THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



December 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services adopted the CDC's new recommended guidelines, reducing quarantine durations for **asymptomatic** individuals as of December 4, 2020.

Although this is encouraging news as it **may** provide a sooner return to school if your child is quarantined due to close contact, it isn't without other criteria that must be strictly adhered to. I am going to make my best attempt now to clarify the new rules for you.

- If your child is identified as a close contact, **and becomes symptomatic with any one symptom during quarantine**, their quarantine will remain at 14 days, and we would **highly recommend** you have them tested. If they have or develop symptoms during quarantine, nothing changes from our practices thus far, and your child will be quarantined for 14 days from last contact to the positive, and would have to be symptom free the last 24 hours of quarantine prior to return.

The following is what is new:

- If your child is identified as a close contact, **AND is asymptomatic**, they are quarantined **at minimum** for seven (7) days from last contact to the positive. Yet, to return on "Day 8," **they must have** a COVID-19 test* collected, **and NO SOONER** than "Day 6" of quarantine. If they have a COVID test, and the results are negative, **AND they remain asymptomatic**, your child could return to school on "Day 8."

**A rapid test would suffice if shown to be negative for your child's return on "Day 8"*

- If your child is quarantined, and you choose not to have them tested, **AND they remain asymptomatic** through quarantine, their quarantine is reduced from what has been the 14 days to a 10 day quarantine, therefore they can return on "Day 11."

The reason for this change is that the CDC has learned that approximately 90% of all positive test results from those in quarantine show up in the first ten (10) days of quarantine, with approximately 10% showing positive in Days 11-14. **This is why this change only applies to ASYMPTOMATIC individuals and not those with even a SINGLE symptom of any kind.**

Beginning the week of December 7, all students who return from quarantine will be screened by either our school nurse or office staff with a temperature check and general observation of any other symptoms. If your child has **any one** symptom upon return from quarantine, they will be put into isolation and have to return home. We appreciate your cooperation in advance so as not to send your child back from any of the aforementioned quarantine times if they have any symptom.

If you have any further questions or clarifications, please contact school nurse Melissa Testolin, RN, at fsdnurse@myflorence.org or (715) 528-3215.

Sincerely,

Ben Niehaus, District Administrator