Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19

COVID-19 is still spreading in Wisconsin communities- which means it is still a threat to your health. We care about you and your family's heath. So while the virus is still new, we worked with our state, local, and federal partners to give you the best information we have

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms are considered consistent with COVID-19 when one of the following marked with a * **OR** two of the other symptoms listed are present above baseline for them.

Cough*
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
New loss of taste or smell*
Congestions or runny nose
Fever or chills

Nausea or vomiting
Diarrhea
Headache
Fatigue
Muscle or body aches
Sore throat
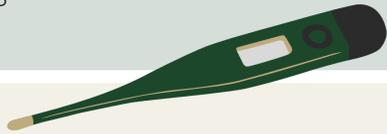
How long does it take for symptoms to start?

It can take up to 14 days for people with COVID-19 to start showing symptoms. Some people have very mild symptoms, some people become really sick, and some don't have any symptoms at all

How do I know if my student was around someone who was sick?

Your local public health department has a system to tell whether someone should stay at home. Local public health staff will call you if your student falls into that group.

How long does my student need to stay home if they test positive or a Doctor says they likely have COVID-19?

If your student has symptoms they should stay at home and away from others as much as possible until all three of the following have happened

1) At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started
2) They haven't had a fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 24 hours without using any medication to lower fever
3) Their cough or breathing problems get better
4) Students do not need a negative test before returning to school

What if my student tested positive for COVID-19 but doesn't show symptoms?

They should stay home 10 days after the day they were tested and keep away from other people as much as possible. Even though they don't have symptoms they can still spread the virus to others. Students do not need a negative test before returning to school.

What steps can I take to prevent my student from getting COVID-19?

Talk with your student about taking these everyday steps to avoid getting sick:

- Washing hands often
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even in your own home
- Stay 6 feet apart from other people
- Wear a cloth mask when around other people
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Keep track of any symptoms and do daily temperature checks

When should my student stay home?

Your student should stay home if they are symptomatic or have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results. They are considered symptomatic if they have one of the following marked with a * **OR** are experiencing two of the following

Cough*
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
New loss of taste or smell*
Congestions or runny nose
Fever or chills

Nausea or vomiting
Diarrhea
Headache
Fatigue
Muscle or body aches
Sore throat

Note: vomiting, diarrhea, and fever alone should exclude a student from school. However, they do not necessarily indicate that they are symptomatic for COVID-19

Why does my student need to stay home?

Keeping ill students, and students who have been exposed to COVID-19, away from others can stop the spread of the virus. It is possible for people who do not have symptoms to spread the virus to others. To help schools track any potential outbreaks, families should notify the school if they are staying home because they are sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been exposed. Describe to the school what symptoms the student is experiencing.

What does isolation and quarantine mean?

They are public safety tools ,used by public health scientists for centuries, to stop the spread of germs.

Isolation means keeping sick people away from healthy ones. This usually means that the sick person rests in their own bedroom or area of your hme and keeps away from others as best as possible

Quarantine means separating people who were exposed to a sick person from others, as COVID-19 can be spread before a person has any symptoms. Quarentine stops them from accidentally spreading the virus to others. Usually people who are in quarantine stay at home to avoid being around others.

What if my student becomes sick but isn't test for COVID-19?

They should stay home, in isolation, until they are feeling better and one of the following has happened:

1) At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started, they haven't had a fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 24 hours without using any medication to lower fever, and other symptoms have improved.
OR
2) You can provide documented evidence by a medical provider clearing your child's return because of diagnosis with another illness (e.g. Strep throat) that would account for similar symptoms.

What is a "Close Contact"?

Close Contact with someone who has COVID-19 puts you at a higher risk for contracting and spreading the virus. Examples of close contact are being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes, sharing a drinking glass or eating utensils, touching the person or something that may have their germs on them like a used tissue, or being coughed or sneezed on

Casual Contact like passing someone in the grocery store is low risk for spreading COVID-19

If my student is a "close contact" and there are other children in our home who do not have symptoms, should they stay home too, or continue coming to school?

No, your other students may continue to go to work and school. If the child who was in close contact gets sick, then your other students should stay home.

What if my student has had "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19, gets sick, but tests negative?

They must quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. If they visit a doctor and they tell you your student has something other than COVID-19 (like the flu or hand, foot, and mouth) then you should also follow the doctor's guidelines for exclusion requirements for that disease. Review the Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Disease Wall Chart for additional information.

If they don't visit a doctor and have proof of another disease, they must stay home until all of the following have happened:

1) They have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
2) Their symptoms (for example, coughing or breathing problems) are better
3) At least 14 days have passed since they were around the person with COVID-19

Additional information

dpi.wi.gov   cdc.gov   dhs.wisconsin.gov

What if my student becomes sick but test negative for COVID-19?

They should stay home until they are feeling better and they have not had a fever for 24 hours without using any medication to reduce fever.

If they visit a doctor and they tell you your student has something other than COVID19 (like the flu or hand, foot, and mouth) then you should follow the doctor's guidelines for exclusion requirements for that disease. Review the Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Diseases Wall Chart, P-44397 for additional information.

What if we live with someone who has COVID-19?

People who live together usually have close contact with one another. Everyone you live with should stay home until all of the following have happened:

1) The person gets better
- At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started
- They haven't had a fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 24 hours without using any medication to lower fever
- Their cough or breathing problems get better

PLUS 14 days have passed since the sick person has gotten better to see if other people in your home get symptoms

What if my student has had "close contact" with someone who has COVID-19 and gets sick but is not tested?

Your student should stay home and away from others as much as possible until they get better and all the following have happened:

1) At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started
2) They haven't had a fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 24 hours without using any medication to lower fever
3) Their cough or breathing problems get better

PLUS 14 days have passed since they were last around the person with COVID-19

When to seek emergency medical attention?

Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing and of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately.**

- Trouble breathing
- Persisten pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This is not all the possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

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