

A message from WILMINGTON CMTY UNIT SD 209-U

ATTENTION PARENTS, STUDENTS & STAFF –

If anyone in your household has been recommended to self-quarantine at any point after August 1, 2020 due to: 1. experiencing potentially COVID-related symptoms, 2. being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, OR 3. as a result of a personal positive test result... we will need for you to communicate with your building principal as soon as possible.

Also, if you have been in recent contact with someone who tested positive for COVID, but are not sure if the interaction would require a self-quarantine, please contact Matt Swick (mswick@209u.net) or Kevin Feeney (kfeeney@209u.net) at the District Office.

As we make final preparations for the 1st day of school on August 26, it is vital for us to have all necessary information in order to promote the safety and well-being of students and staff at the beginning of this new school year.

I also wanted to share the link below which was just published & shared with school districts last Wednesday evening. It offers some clear guidance to school districts which will be returning to in-person teaching & learning, specifically related to health and wellness considerations. See following link... <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-School-FAQs.pdf>.

In particular, it offered some clarification regarding how siblings will be handled in regards to being considered as 'close contacts':

If a student is sent home sick with suspected COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., runny nose, fever, diarrhea, etc.), must all their siblings/household members be sent home as well and quarantined for 14 calendar days?

Yes, if one of the household members is being evaluated for COVID-19, the rest of the household must be quarantined until an alternative diagnosis is made or negative result received. If the sick student becomes a confirmed case (i.e., tests positive for COVID-19) or a probable case (i.e., has COVID-like symptoms and is epidemiologically linked to known case), the local health department (LHD) conducting contact tracing will place household contacts, including siblings, in quarantine for 14 calendar days. The health department also will provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household.

Additional guidance was also provided in regards to time off from work / school in various scenarios:

What actions should be taken by students/staff sent home with COVID-like symptoms? (Updated 8/13/20)

- All students and staff sent home with COVID-like symptoms should be diagnostically tested. Student and staff should remain home from school until they receive the test results.

- Students and staff who are confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 must complete 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset and be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved before returning to school.
- Students and staff returning to school after experiencing COVID-like symptoms but being diagnosed with a non-COVID illness must meet the criteria for returning to school for the illness with which they have been diagnosed. At a minimum, the individual must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and have had no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours..... A doctor's note documenting the alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test result should accompany a student or staff member returning to school with an alternative diagnosis after experiencing COVID-like symptoms.... Medical evaluation and COVID-19 diagnostic testing is strongly recommended for all persons with COVID-like symptoms.
- Students and staff with COVID-like symptoms who do not get tested for COVID-19 and who do not provide a healthcare provider's note documenting an alternative diagnosis, must complete 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset and be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved before returning to school.

Full responses to these 2 questions and several other additional questions and answers can also be found at this link provided by IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education - <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-School-FAQs.pdf>.

Again – as we prepare for next week's return of students to the classroom, it is very important to maintain an open line of communication with our building principals. If your family has personally experienced any form of Self-Quarantine at any point after August 1st, please get in touch with the appropriate Building Principal as soon as possible to help ensure that all appropriate steps are taken. This will truly help to begin this new year in a safe and healthy manner.

Thanks in advance,

Matt Swick

Superintendent of Schools

Wilmington School District

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