



Thursday, December 10, 2020

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released [options to shorten the quarantine period for COVID-19](#). Quarantine is an essential strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Ideally, quarantine should be continued for the full incubation period (i.e., the period during which an exposed person is at risk for becoming infectious). The incubation period for SARS-CoV-2 virus is 14 days. Juneau County school districts have reviewed these quarantine alternatives in collaboration with the Juneau County Health Department and decided to strive for a shortened 10 day quarantine period as it applies to the academic setting. This option would apply for students and staff identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 person. We want to underscore that this shortened quarantine period still presents a transmission risk estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of about 10%. A full 14 day quarantine period is still the gold standard and recommended by our agencies to provide the lowest risk for transmission within our schools.

Below are the guidelines for the alternative quarantine option:

- ***Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if:***
 - ***No symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.***
 - ***Symptom monitoring must continue through Day 14 in collaboration with the School Nurse and/or District designee.***
 - ***From Day 11 – Day 14, strict masking and physical distancing (6 ft of separation) must be followed. School districts cannot guarantee physical distancing will be possible at all times and will make adjustments to meet this standard wherever possible.***

While school districts in Juneau County will strive for this shortened quarantine alternative, there may be instances where this cannot be accommodated based on individual risk assessment. Each district will conduct ongoing review of the impact of this modification to risk level and transmission rates within schools and may adjust if local circumstances change.

School District Administration and Juneau County Health Department response staff request honesty in the report of symptoms for all individuals in quarantine as false reports will lead to increased risk of exposure and transmission in school districts. Our organizations want to provide flexibility during this difficult time while keeping families safe and healthy.

Close contacts are encouraged to continue their quarantine through Day 14 if able and will not have any penalty for doing so. Below are situations where a full 14 day quarantine would be highly recommended:

1. The positive person lives in your household and you cannot properly quarantine from them.
2. The child would not be able to strictly follow masking and/or 6 feet of separation from classmates. (i.e. child too young to understand requirements, child rides bus, and classroom space does not allow for 6 feet distance)

If you have any questions, please contact your school district directly.

Best Regards,



Amanda Dederich
Health Officer
Juneau County
Health Department



Fr. John A. Potaczek
Pastor
St. Patrick School



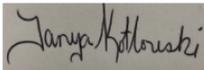
Joel Heesch
Superintendent
School District of Mauston



Adam Englebretson
Superintendent
School District of
New Lisbon



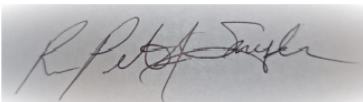
Mark Gruen
Superintendent
Royall School District



Tanya Kotlowski
Superintendent
Necedah Area School District



Sharon Ennis
Superintendent
Wonewoc-Center School District



Peter J. Snyder
Pastor & Principal
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wonewoc