

Dear Vanguard,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! The health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority this school year. We want to provide you with some information on COVID-19 and how you can help us keep all students safe while at school.

### **Keep your student home if ill**

It is important for you to keep your student(s) home when they are not feeling well. If you have any questions on whether your student should come to school, the best decision would be to keep them home and contact your health care provider to discuss your concerns. If your student tests positive for COVID-19, is exposed to COVID-19 or stays home due to illness, please contact your student's school.

### **Students should stay home with any 1 of the following:**

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Trouble breathing.
- New loss of taste or smell.

### **Student should stay home with any 2 of the following:**

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ Sore throat                    | ○ Headache                   |
| ○ Unusual fatigue                | ○ Muscle or body aches       |
| ○ Nausea or vomiting*            | ○ Diarrhea*                  |
| ○ Runny nose or nasal congestion | ○ Fever* (100.4°F or higher) |

**\*Per school policy please keep students home with these symptoms until they have been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.**

### **Vaccination**

If your student is old enough to get the COVID-19 vaccine, we recommend they get it. It is one of the best tools we have to reduce the spread of disease and keep kids in school. The Pfizer vaccine is now FDA approved. If you have questions about the vaccine or need help getting one, please reach out and I can help you.

### **Testing**

If your student is experiencing symptoms, we will be offering free testing at school this year. A parental consent form must be on file before we perform the test. Any students who develop symptoms at school will be tested with parental consent. Any students that have symptoms and are at home can set up a drive up testing appointment. We will perform both a rapid and a PCR test using nasal swabs (just inside the nostril). If both tests are negative the student can return to school when they are symptom free. To schedule an appointment please email both Katy Howe, School Nurse ([khowe@wisheights.k12.wi.us](mailto:khowe@wisheights.k12.wi.us)), and Matt Green, Student Services Director ([mgreen@wisheights.k12.wi.us](mailto:mgreen@wisheights.k12.wi.us)). This service will not be available until the second week of school. To consent to testing, parents/guardians, please complete the questions required on the following link: <https://forms.gle/n6eaKj1dVZZ2dszf8>

## **Isolation**

Any student that tests positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate for 10 days and have symptom improvement before returning to school.

## **Quarantine**

Per the CDC, this year students will not be considered close contacts in the classroom if students are masked and maintaining 3 feet of social distance. In the classroom the only time a student will be a close contact is if they have been within 3 feet for 15 minutes or more cumulative in a 24 hours period. Outside of the classroom the definition of a close contact is being within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more, cumulative in a 24 hour period.

## **Vaccinated Close Contacts**

**Fully vaccinated students will not need to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic.** If they develop symptoms they would need to stay home and get tested before they could return. It is also recommended vaccinated individuals get tested 3-5 days after an exposure.

## **Unvaccinated Close Contacts**

**Students who are unvaccinated and determined to be a close contact will have to quarantine.** We have 2 quarantine options for students this year. Students can do a 7 day quarantine with a negative PCR test. Tests cannot be collected until the 6th day of quarantine at the earliest and students cannot return until the test results have come back negative. Without testing students would need to complete a 10 day quarantine. With both options we ask families to monitor for symptoms the entire 14 days and stay home with any symptoms.

If you would like more details on isolation, quarantine and exclusion please review the following documents from Public Health Madison & Dane County.

[Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines](#)

[Exclusion Chart](#)

Thank you for helping us keep kids healthy and in school learning.