

OCONTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Leaders & Learners . . . Today & Tomorrow"

Dear Families,

We are writing to share an important update to our COVID-19 quarantine policy as we return from winter break in the Oconto Unified School District.

On December 27, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <u>announced</u> that it has shortened its recommended quarantine period to five days for individuals with COVID-19, as long as their symptoms are improving or they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours.

Effective immediately, the Oconto School District will reduce its required isolation period from 10 days to 5 days for students and staff who have a confirmed case. Individuals returning from isolation are required to wear a mask when around others for the first 5 days of their return to school. If the individual chooses not to mask, they will be required to isolate the entire 10 days.

As a district, we are still requiring individuals that live in a household with a positive case to quarantine unless the individual has met the vaccine requirement. You should quarantine if you are in one of the following groups and live in a household with someone who tested positive:

- You are ages 18 or older and completed the <u>primary series</u> of recommended vaccines, but have not received a <u>recommended</u> booster shot when eligible.
- You received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a <u>recommended</u> booster shot.
- You are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.

The quarantine time for an individual living in a household with someone who has Covid-19 will be a total of 10 days from the symptom onset of the positive individual. Staff and students may return after day 10 as long as they are not experiencing symptoms and the individual wears a mask for an additional 5 days. If the individual chooses not to mask, they must quarantine for 15 days.

We know that the changes in recommendations from the CDC and public health officials can be frustrating. COVID-19 is still a new virus and researchers are learning more about it every day. In this case, the change was due to evidence showing that, in general, the transmission of the virus to others occurs 1-2 days before and 2-3 days after an individual experiences symptoms.

As we continue to manage the spread of the Omicron virus, we ask that we all work to protect ourselves and others from illness.

Thank you once again for your support and flexibility.

Sincerely,

Emily Miller Superintendent

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