



Waukesha County

Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Sir or Madam:

As you likely know, Waukesha County Public Health and local school districts have been working together closely to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community. A major part of this is a collaborative effort to track all positive cases in school facilities and to notify anyone who has been in close contact with those individuals through the contact tracing process.

Due to rising COVID-19 cases statewide, a recent and significant change to this process means that if you or your child are a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19, you will likely be notified of your exposure from that individual, school personnel, or your place of employment, rather than from Waukesha County Public Health. Waukesha County Public Health will focus all efforts on following up with confirmed cases rather than notifications of close contacts.

If you learn that you or your child are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual, even if the message does not come from Waukesha County Public Health, you should immediately follow Waukesha County's guidelines for schools regarding testing and quarantining. A negative test result during the quarantine period does not mean that you or your child will not develop symptoms or become sick after the test, it simply means that your child did not have COVID-19 detected at the time of testing. The quarantine period still needs to be completed, and your child's school will use public health guidance to determine exclusion dates.

This is one of several modifications to the contact tracing process that Waukesha County Public Health, and other health departments across Wisconsin, are adopting to continue to aggressively mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic as cases continue to rise statewide. You can read the news release about the modifications [here](#).

As cases continue to rise, we also ask for your continued vigilance in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Currently, transmission of the virus in schools appears to be coming from outside of the facilities. The cases that are coming into schools appear to largely be a result of activities that are happening in the community and are the main drivers of quarantines that are impacting our classrooms. Social events like sleepovers, parties/gatherings, and athletics where proper measures are not enforced are driving exposures in classrooms.

Please take precautions to protect yourself and your family from contracting or spreading the virus during your activities in the community so that we can continue to provide in-person learning options for students.

We understand that there are a lot of questions about the virus and its impact in our schools. For that reason, Waukesha County Public Health has developed a new Frequently Asked Questions webpage. You can find it at www.waukeshacounty.gov/covid19.

Sincerely,

Paul Farrow
Waukesha County Executive

Benjamin Jones
Waukesha County Health Officer