

September 14, 2021

Dear Families of Bigfork Students:

We, at Bigfork School District, would like to share information with you about how we will be handling positive COVID-19 cases in our school buildings. When a positive case of COVID-19 is identified in our school community, a list of students/staff who meet criteria for "close contact" during the school day will be generated and sent to the Flathead City/County Health Department (FCHD). The Health Department will contact these individuals via email and give them recommendations/guidance for quarantine/testing per CDC recommendations. This can sometimes take several days depending on the level of cases being handled by the Health Department on any given day. If your son/daughter is on a list that is forwarded to the County Health Department, we will also send you an email or call you for notification that we have forwarded your child's information.

You can find information on CDC recommendations/guidance for quarantine/testing also on our District website under "COVID Resources". Also new for this school year is our Logan Health School Based Health Center. The link for appointments on our District website.

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for at least 10 days. Students and staff who are identified as a close contact are advised by the FCHD and the CDC to quarantine for a period of at least 10 days or seven days with a negative test. Regardless of the situation, please keep your child home when he or she is ill or exhibiting symptoms.

You can also access direct information from the Flathead County Health Department on the following links from Health Officer Joe Russell.

### Isolation and Quarantine Protocols-Students (Flathead County Health Department)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10VOC6S4Jg64H1\\_KRVPb\\_L8hio5I7lLy2/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10VOC6S4Jg64H1_KRVPb_L8hio5I7lLy2/view)



Early identification of infected persons with COVID-19 disease and rapid response is critical in the school setting. Rapid response is enhanced with strong communication and clearly established responsibilities between the Health Department and schools. This memorandum describes the Health Department's position on isolation and quarantine.

- If someone tests positive for COVID-19 (**infected person**), that person will have a mandatory 10-day isolation period from the onset of symptoms or the laboratory testing date if onset of symptom date is not readily identifiable. A health care provider will be the first contact to the infected person or their parent/guardian and will instruct the patient to isolate. The Health Department will follow-up as soon as notified of the positive laboratory result.
- If someone is exposed based on proximity and duration to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, that person is a **close contact** and is advised to quarantine with certain exceptions listed below. An infected person is capable of transmitting disease 48 hours prior to symptom onset or date of testing if they are asymptomatic. Criteria of exposure must include this pre-symptomatic period.
- A close contact (through proximity and duration of exposure) in a school setting is defined as:
  - Someone who is within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes within a 24-hour period (three 5-minute exposures with 24 hours is a close contact). **Exception:** The close contact definition excludes students who

### [Isolation and Quarantine Protocols for School 8-24-21.pdf](#)

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)

## Isolation and Quarantine Protocols-Adult Staff (Flathead County Health Department)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WCfCs0sDLkSCnZvB5u1-HKOV09vrW7aG/view>



and clearly established responsibilities between the Health Department and schools. This memorandum describes the Health Department's position on isolation and quarantine.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 (**infected person**), that person will have a mandatory 10-day isolation period from the onset of symptoms or the laboratory testing date if onset of symptom date is not readily identifiable. A health care provider will be the first contact to the infected person or their parent/guardian and will instruct the patient to isolate. The Health Department will follow-up as soon as notified of the positive laboratory result.

If someone is exposed based on proximity and duration to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, that person is a **close contact** and is advised to quarantine with certain exceptions listed below. An infected person is capable of transmitting disease 48 hours prior to symptom onset or date of testing if they are asymptomatic. Criteria of exposure must include this pre-symptomatic period.

Quarantine will not be advised for any person who is a lab-identified COVID-19 case infected within the past 90 days. Status will be verified through the State of Montana's infectious disease surveillance and reporting system.

CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>) advises that if you are fully vaccinated, (14 days past completing the Moderna and Pfizer 2 dose series or single dose of Janssen-Johnson and Johnson) quarantine is not necessary unless you develop symptoms associated with COVID-19 illness. CDC advises fully vaccinated close

## [Isolation and Quarantine Protocols for Adult Staff in School 8-24-21.pdf](#)

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)