

Dec. 11, 2020



Good afternoon SDNB families,

As you may be aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recently released updated recommendations related to quarantine periods for asymptomatic people who are identified as close contacts to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Earlier this week, Waukesha County updated its guidelines to align with those recommendations, and today, the School District of New Berlin is updating its guidelines as well.

Starting Monday, Dec. 14, the SDNB will shorten its required quarantine for asymptomatic close contacts to the following:

- **10 days:** if the asymptomatic individual does not get a COVID-19 test; self-quarantines for 10 full days after last contact with COVID-19 positive individual; monitors an additional four days for symptoms; and, if possible, continues to stay away from others, especially high-risk individuals.
- **7 days:** if the asymptomatic person is tested for COVID-19 no earlier than the sixth day after the last day of contact and test results are negative; self-quarantines for seven full days; monitors an additional seven days for symptoms; and, if possible, continues to stay away from others, especially high-risk individuals.

There are several important notes about the new quarantine guidelines that families must keep in mind:

- Asymptomatic close contacts who choose to get tested must do so using an FDA-approved PCR or antigen test; rapid tests have a higher rate of producing false negative results, and the results cannot be used to shorten a quarantine period. This is consistent with county, DHS and CDC recommendations. Test results must be emailed to pam.jesse@nbexcellence.org for review before a student can return to school.
- Household close contacts that cannot separate themselves are continuously exposed and need to stay quarantined for as long as they are exposed to someone infectious, **plus the 7-10 days after they are no longer exposed.**
- The CDC, DHS and Waukesha County all concur that a 14-day quarantine remains the best option as it can take up to 14 days after exposure to the virus for a person to develop symptoms. Families should continue to consider 14-day quarantines for their child(ren) when possible.
- The new guidelines **will not be applied retroactively**; in other words, the new guidelines apply only to close contacts identified beginning Monday, Dec. 14. Close contacts currently quarantining will continue to do so for the full 14-day period.

Over the next few days, the district will update its website and related resources to reflect these changes. Additionally, you can view the Waukesha County guide related to the quarantine changes [HERE](#).

Please continue to report COVID-19 absences and cases to your school as you normally would before, during and after winter break so that the district can continue to conduct accurate and comprehensive contact tracing. Contact District Nurse Pamela Jesse at pam.jesse@nbexcellence.org with any questions.

Thank you once again for your continued support and your efforts to help us mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools open.

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent