

September 18, 2020

To School District of Marshfield Families and Staff:

On behalf of the school district, I would like to take the opportunity to pass along additional thanks and appreciation to our families and staff for a successful start to our school year. We continue to see a tremendous amount of flexibility and understanding from our students, parents, and staff as we all continue to adjust to ongoing changes, disruptions, and uncertainty.

In a joint meeting I attended on September 17th between Wood County Health Department and superintendents from Wood County school districts, I quickly became aware of how fortunate our school district has been. Other districts reported that due to a higher frequency of student/staff absences from close contacts with positive COVID-19 cases, they were forced to whole-class quarantine or close school. It is important to note, however, that positive cases and community spread of COVID-19 is on the rise in Marshfield and Wood County as a whole. For example, Wood County currently stands at the "Higher Risk" category, according to CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools. Accordingly, we all need to stay prepared for a potential shift to the "virtual/remote learning model" (whether it be whole classes, an entire building, or district-wide), because the situation is likely to begin catching up to us here in the School District of Marshfield.

This update is also intended to advise families and staff the school district will begin following [revised guidance for "household members" of students and staff who should stay home from school](#). This updated guidance, based on DHS and WCHD recommendations, will now make it necessary for siblings and other household contacts who attend school (i.e., school staff who reside with a symptomatic student) to also quarantine at home for 14 days or until a negative test result or alternative diagnosis occurs for the symptomatic student. This new guideline will take effect on Monday, September 21, 2020 in the School District of Marshfield.

In our communications with health officials, they have explained that this expectation for having household contacts quarantine at home is called for because there is a higher index of suspicion that symptomatic individuals without a known close contact in schools may have COVID-19 because of the high potential of asymptomatic spread in school-aged children.

Thank you for your consideration of this latest update. Once again, I thank you all for your diligence and commitment to helping keep our schools safe. Take care!

Dr. Ryan Christianson
Superintendent