

Update
From Your Superintendent
November 5, 2020

**NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR STUDENTS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL**

As cases continue to rise in Osceola County it is now necessary that if your child is ill with any of the COVID symptoms, even though they do not come to school, he/she must remain out of school for 10 days. This is the same policy that we have in place for students who are sent home from school. Virtual learning opportunities will be provided when the school is notified that your child will be absent for the 10 days. COVID symptoms include: temperature 100.4 or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or new onset of severe headache. In order for your child to return to school earlier than 10 days, your child would need an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider or a negative COVID test. Your child is then able to return to school following the health department guidelines that are posted on the website.

**STUDENTS SENT HOME FROM SCHOOL WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9-13**

We continue to be at a higher risk for community spread of COVID-19, according to the MI Safe Start Map (www.mistartmap.info), so extra precautions must remain in place. Last week, Osceola County was in the E risk category for cases per million. **Today our county continues to be in the E category. This means that for the week of November 9th if your child is sent home from school because of any of the COVID symptoms, he/she is excluded from school for 10 days.** Please know that excluded students, due to symptoms, will be provided with virtual learning opportunities in order to stay on track with their peers as much as possible. Please call the building your child attends to inform them that your child has an alternate diagnosis or a negative COVID test during school hours. If no one answers, then call the Central Office at 231-734-5594. Central Office hours are 7:30-4:30. We are trying to do everything we can to keep our students in school.

Please continue to check the website at www.evartps.org, each week for this update. Click on the Covid-19 Notification Center Badge and you will see under "Return to School Information" the Health Department Guidelines and the Flowchart for Handling Student Symptoms listed.

STUDENTS IN QUARANTINE

Quarantine is required by the local health department when a student is deemed a close contact, meaning the student has been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer of a person who has tested positive for COVID. Often this is an immediate family member but not always. The quarantine is for 14 days and unlike the above scenarios a negative COVID test does not allow the student to return before the 14 have expired. There has been some confusion on when a student may return but it will not be any sooner than 14 days.

We have been very fortunate that we have had only one student test positive for COVID and no staff. If we do get a positive case in our district, students and staff will be quarantined following the health department guidelines.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this pandemic. Our schools are safer because of your help and support.

Shirley