

10/8/2020

Dear Elmwood Community,

The health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority this school year. According to Governor DeWine's orders, we must notify the community within 24 hours if we have a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19. We were notified that a **student/staff member** at **Elmwood Local Schools** tested positive for COVID-19. We want to assure you that we are working closely with Wood County Public Health Department on the case investigation and identifying anyone in the school who was exposed while this **student/staff member** was infectious.

For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated. All close contacts are being contacted by the Wood County Public Health Department and Elmwood Local Schools. Close contacts will be required to quarantine at home to monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date of their last exposure. **You will not be contacted by Wood County Public Health Department or Elmwood Local Schools if your child was not considered exposed.**

#### **How is COVID-19 spread?**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread from person-to-person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

#### **What are symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

We want to provide you with some information on COVID-19 and share the steps we are taking to keep your student safe and healthy while at school.

#### **The steps we are taking to reduce the risk of COVID-19:**

1. Asking families and caregivers to screen their student for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 daily and keep the student home if they are ill.
2. Maintaining physical distancing as much as possible
3. Installing physical barriers to separate students and teachers where physical distancing is not an option

4. Keeping students in small groups (referred to as “cohorting”) within one classroom
5. Decreasing student movement between classrooms throughout the building if possible.
6. Having school staff and students wear face masks.
7. Cleaning and disinfecting according to CDC guidelines
8. Improving ventilation by increasing the amount of outdoor air, increasing total airflow, and/or increasing air filtration
9. Eliminating shared supplies and having students use individual classroom supplies.

**We need your help, too!**

Here is what you can do at home to help keep your student and yourself healthy.

- Help them wash their hands often.
- Help them avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Remind them to stay 6 feet apart from other people outside of their household.
- Remind/encourage those who are able to do so safely to cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when they are around others.
- Teach them to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

**Keep your student home if ill.**

It is important for you to keep your student home when they are not feeling well. If you have any questions on whether your student should come to school, the best decision would be to keep them home and contact your health care provider to discuss your concerns. We especially want you to keep your student home from school if they are experiencing one or more symptoms, if they have been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, or if your student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact **Angela Missig, District Nurse, Elmwood Local Schools at 419.655.2583 ext. 333 or [missa@elmls.net](mailto:missa@elmls.net).**

Thank you,

Tony Borton

Superintendent

Elmwood Local Schools