



Date: 3/10/20

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Clark County Health Department (CCHD) values the health and well-being of our schools, to include students, staff, and families. We work throughout the year to promote healthy schools. Safety is our number one priority.

You may have heard the news about increased cases of seasonal influenza (flu) in Wisconsin. You likely also heard about the release from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), encouraging schools and communities to begin planning in the event that Coronavirus (or COVID-19) spreads locally. The CCHD has provided guidance to the schools to assist in preparation for local cases of COVID-19, should we experience any in Clark County.

At this time, as of 3/10/20, there have been 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin (2 in Dane County and 1 in Pierce County). **The immediate health risk from this virus to Clark County residents is still considered low at this time.** For the most up-to-date and official information, please visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Please note, parents and guardians should work closely with school nurses and/or office staff regarding absences due to illness. Student illness details (e.g. fever, cough) help school staff track trends and implement appropriate prevention steps. Although schools are mandated to track attendance, the health of your child (and of others) takes precedence. We advise sick children to remain home, even if they have exceeded the number of allowable absences.

We also want to stress the importance of avoiding assumptions or stereotypes about individuals who may be absent from school for other illness-related reasons. Schools will not be excluding people from school or other activities based on a mild illness. The CCHD will make the decision regarding isolation or quarantine of individuals at risk of the flu or COVID-19.

While much attention has been paid to COVID-19, seasonal influenza (flu) and other respiratory viruses, are common in Wisconsin at this time of year. We encourage schools and families to observe consistent hand washing, cover coughing and sneezing, and staying home when sick. It is also not too late for your family to get their flu shot.

The COVID-19 situation is constantly changing. We understand there is uncertainty involved in this situation. We will continue to update families with new information or guidance as it is made available. You may also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clarkcohealthdept. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Clark County Health Department at (715) 743-5105.

Sincerely,

Brittany Mews, RN BSN
Health Officer/Director
Clark County Health Department