



June 12, 2020

Dear School Districts in Fond du Lac County,

We continue to face unprecedented times in our world and within Fond du Lac County surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Information continues to be shared with us weekly on new recommendations, messaging about COVID-19, and testing information. As we continue to respond to COVID-19 every day within our Health Department, we also want to start preparing our K12 school districts for reopening in the fall.

On May 19th the CDC released guidance for schools to reopen safely in the fall. These recommendations are fluid and may change as we learn more about the virus through the summer. If that is the case, we will reach out to you again with the most current recommendations.

The Health Department highly encourages and supports that each school district has an Operations Plan in place specific to the COVID-19 pandemic to promote sustainability for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. It is important that our children return to school in the fall. Having an Operations Plan in place will help assure staff, parents and students have an optimal process for supporting a positive and safe learning environment.

In order to start the school year safely, below is a list of items that should be included in your Operations Plan. The relationship with the Health Department should be part of the plan. The Health Department will support your district, assure prompt and efficient information sharing and rely on your assistance with contact tracing when a positive case is identified. You will also find additional information and guidance in the links below from the CDC and DPI.

Operation Plan for COVID-19 Information to be included for reopening:

- Health screening for staff and students. This could include temperature checks and screening questions for all.
- Encouraging/messaging staying at home when ill or showing symptoms that is directed at both staff and students.
- If staff or students become ill during the school day, have an identified isolation area that can accommodate several individuals while taking social distancing and spread of virus in mind.
- Consider criteria on when to close the schools or district due to spread of the virus and the amount of time you would close. This would prevent further spread and allow for deep cleaning of the schools. Keep in mind, just one school closure may not be sufficient when you have multiple children in a family attending different schools.
- Classroom set up regarding desks/tables/chairs allowing social distancing.
- Consider teaching in groups, where students and staff stay with the same class all day. This allows for easier contact tracing and illness identification.

- Lunch times should be staggered, social distancing in mind for cafeterias. Lunch in the classroom is encouraged, if possible. If you have to use the cafeteria for lunch service, no self-serve meals, all meals served to students by trained staff in food safety.
- Staggered start times for students/age groups to reduce number of students coming in and out of the hallways/classrooms/transportation.
- No congregating in common areas.
- Increased cleaning with approved disinfectant. As well as special attention to common areas such as door handles, light switches, counters, tables, chairs, bathrooms.
- If you provide bussing, work with them regarding transportation changes to how many students on a bus at a time, social distancing and increased cleaning.
- Consider PPE such as face coverings for staff and students, if possible.
- Promote increased handwashing with signage.
- Reduce visitors, volunteers, and field trips.
- Make considerations for testing within your school districts if the need would arise.
- Consider those students who may be at higher risk for contracting the virus, create a special plan to accommodate their needs to keep them safe.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-decision-tool.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>

As you review the information, please let us know what you need from the Health Department moving forward. We are happy to review your plans, if requested. The Health Department would like to be a partner with all of our school district in Fond du Lac County as you face challenging times ahead and want to assure a safe and healthy school environment in the fall. We will make all efforts to be in continuous communication with you as information is released or updated from CDC or DHS.

Sincerely,



Kim Mueller
Health Officer