



MARTIN COUNTY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 2448
105 East 5th Street, Sherburn, MN 56171
martin.k12.mn.us | 507-764-2330

August 16, 2022

Dear Martin County West Families,

As the near school year approaches, I want to share information on how Martin County West Schools will handle the ongoing presence of COVID. We have moved into a new stage of the COVID pandemic where our efforts with COVID are very similar to how we handle other communicable or infectious diseases. Our plans are based on "[Best Practice Recommendations and Case Reporting](#)" published by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and are as follows.

Precautions

Martin County West Schools will continue to implement the following precautions to reduce the transmission of common illnesses, including COVID:

- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette: We will offer education on proper handwashing and safe sneezing and coughing techniques through instruction by the school nurse and signage throughout the buildings.
- Staying home when sick: As always, we will ask families to keep students home when sick and will request students who become sick during the school day to be picked up immediately. Students may return to school once they have been symptom-free with no medication for 24 hours.
- Cleaning and disinfection: Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Testing Option

Martin County West School District has a supply of BinaxNOW over the counter Covid-19 testing supplies for use by students, families, and staff. These testing supplies were provided through the Minnesota Department of Health and are intended to be used at home. Tests will be available upon request as long as supplies last. More information on the BinaxNOW testing supplies can be found on the MDH website [here](#). 10-17-22 Update Testing will be offered for symptomatic students and staff in the Health Office of each building.

Isolation and Quarantine

Martin County West School District will follow current CDC and MDH recommendations regarding what to do if a person tests positive for COVID and/or if a person is exposed to COVID.

According to the MDH [COVID Quarantine Guide](#), a person who tests positive for COVID should quarantine at home for 5 days and may return to school on day 6 as long as symptoms are improving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours. It is recommended that they wear a mask for days 6-10.

Confirmed cases of COVID among students and staff will be reported to MDH according to the [Communicable Disease Reporting Rule](#). Please report cases of COVID to School Nurse Megan Morgan at 507-764-2330 or meganmorgan@mcwmavericks.org.

The schools will no longer notify staff and families when there is a confirmed case of COVID in their children's class or among their close contacts at school.

According to the CDC guidelines [here](#), a person who has been exposed to COVID but has no symptoms does not need to stay home from school. It is recommended that they wear a mask for 10 days and consider testing 5 days after their last exposure.

These plans are based on the most current recommendations available but could change if conditions in our community change. We will update families and staff of any changes as soon as possible.

We look forward to a school year with significantly fewer COVID disruptions so we can focus on the MCW mission to "provide an engaging education that nurtures learners who are confident critical thinkers prepared to contribute to an ever-changing world."

In partnership for our children's education and health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cori Reynolds".

Cori Reynolds
Superintendent