



**LAKE OF THE WOODS**  
*School*

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Jeff Nelson, Superintendent

An Update from Superintendent Nelson

October 1, 2020

On Monday, September 28, we reported a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in a member of Lake of the Woods School community with an exposure date of September 25. The correct exposure date has been changed to September 24. We have completed the process to identify and notify those who had close contact.

I want parents, students, and our community members to know that school administration works closely with local public health in making decisions related to COVID-19. We rely on the expertise of our medical professionals when making decisions regarding exclusion of students and staff due to COVID-19 exposures.

We all agree that a close contact of a positive COVID-19 person is to stay home and quarantine for 14 days. The incubation period for the virus is 14 days. It has been found that testing 5-7 days after exposure allows enough time for the virus to develop and show whether the virus has been transmitted. Even if the test is negative, the person with direct exposure must continue to quarantine for 14 days.

We believe that the activity and exposure time for those involved is significant and may likely result in additional cases. Out of abundance of caution, to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to other parts of the school, we decided to exclude siblings and staff within households affected by the exposure until testing could be conducted and results known. This gives us more information to work with and make appropriate decisions for our students and staff in the school setting. LakeWood Health is working to provide additional testing in their schedule to accommodate those who need testing.

The Minnesota Department of Health does not mandate that “contacts of contacts” quarantine or be excluded from school, but we decided as a team to take the most conservative approach. This was a difficult decision and it has caused frustration for all involved. We understand that this can upset the daily routine of the household, for places of employment, and lives of our students.

Our goal is to deliver the best education possible to all of our students. During this pandemic, we feel the best way to accomplish this is by keeping our current learning model and having students in school as much as possible. We can only accomplish this by avoiding a COVID-19 outbreak within our school community.

We will continue to work closely with local public health as we navigate through this challenging time.