



**LAKE OF THE WOODS**  
*School*

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A Message from Superintendent Nelson

October 6, 2020

Lake of the Woods School has received several additional lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in members of Lake of the Woods School Community. There was a single positive case with initial exposure dates of September 28<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. We have completed the process to identify and notify those who had close contact with this person and have asked them to quarantine for 14 days. We also have five positive cases related to our first case that had initial exposure dates of September 24<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>. These individuals were all asked to quarantine and have not attended school. Additional contact tracing has been conducted. Those who have had close contact have been notified.

Once again, 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.

It is also critical that everyone follows the recommendations from public health to self-isolate or quarantine when someone in the household has symptoms of COVID-19. One of the most common places of COVID-19 spread is within the same household. Those in quarantine should do their best to distance from family members as well as utilize all methods of protection including masks when appropriate. Please adhere to recommendations from public health. Ignoring recommendations to self-isolate or quarantine, only puts others at risks and increases the potential impact of increased community spread that could force our school to move to a distance learning model.

Our goal is to deliver the best education possible to all of our students, while keeping our students, staff and community safe. 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 community.

We ask everyone's cooperation in keeping everyone safe and our kids at school by following these guidelines:

- Stay home if you are sick and follow recommendations when asked to self-isolate or quarantine.
- Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.
- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.