



## **Important Health Information for Returning to In-person Instruction!**

The School District of Onalaska has taken countless steps to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff. Some of the things we are focusing on here in school is proper mask wearing; social distancing including arrival / dismissal, in the classroom, between classes, lunch and snack; good handwashing; and quickly identifying and isolating students and staff who may be displaying symptoms of illness.

### **You can help!**

- Prepare your child now for wearing a mask during the day. Have them wear their mask for a certain amount of time, and increase it slowly each day to help them get used to it. Have them pick out masks they like, with characters, designs, or colors that they choose!
- Send your child to school wearing a mask and with an extra mask in their backpack. Students will be required to wear masks at school. Neck gaiters and masks with valves are not allowed.
- Have your child practice good hand washing at home. Have them wash for 30 seconds - based on their age they could sing the ABC's, Happy Birthday, or just count, whatever makes it fun for them! Make sure they are washing all parts of their hands including the backs, in between their fingers, and under their nails.
- We will be practicing frequent hand washing during the school day. We also have sanitizer available.
- Talk to them about social distancing. We are all excited to get back to school and see each other. This year will look a little different compared to what they may be used to. Remind them that we need to stay 6 feet apart as much as possible. We need to find new ways of reuniting and saying hello - waving, air hugs, and air high five's are some of the ways people are using to connect with friends! Also talk to younger children about the playground and the importance of avoiding high-touch games and activities (no wrestling!)
- Use the screening tool each and every day! Do not send your child to school if they are ill. Do not send your child to school if they have been asked to quarantine or have been exposed to Covid-19.

### **If your child is sick:**

- When calling your child in ill this year, you will be asked a series of questions. Schools are required to report information on symptoms of illness to the public health department and the state. We will be asking about symptoms your child has, and if they have been exposed to or tested for Covid-19. If you leave a message, you will get a call back from the school so that we may ask you these questions. You may also get a call from the School Nurse depending on the situation.
- If your child is displaying symptoms consistent with Covid-19, we will be asking you to keep siblings of the child home as well. A School Nurse will contact you.



### **A note about Close Contacts and Quarantine:**

- If we do have a positive case of Covid-19 in your child's classroom or school, we will complete contact tracing to determine which if any other students and/or staff would be determined a Close Contact.
- Close Contact is defined by the CDC as:
  - Withing 6 feet of an infected person for 15 min or more over a 24 hour period
  - Direct contact such as touching, hugging, handshake, etc
  - Contact with a person's respiratory secretions E.g. coughed or sneezed on, contact with dirty tissue, sharing a drinking glass, food, towel (such as in gym or sports) or personal items.
  - Stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person
- If your child is determined to be a Close Contact you will be contacted by phone by the school and we will inform you of your child's quarantine dates. You will also be emailed a letter which will also contain information on quarantine dates and what you should do, such as monitoring for symptoms
- If your child is asked to quarantine, this means they need to stay home and not go to work, sports, school, out with friends, or to any public place for 14 days. They will still be able to attend school virtually. If your student is attending virtually, they will not be marked absent.
- If you have a case of Covid-19 in your household, or your child was exposed to someone positive outside of school, they are then a close contact to the person. Please contact the school and/or the nurse to inform them and keep your child out of school for 14 days from the date of exposure.

Please review the attached documents and have them handy each day. We will also be sending copies of these home with your student. Thank you for your ongoing support and assistance to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out. We're all in this together!

Sincerely,

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