



## Chippewa County Department of Public Health

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CCDPH Response to Voluntary Quarantine Protocol for Students

**Chippewa Falls, WI—September 24, 2021, 4:00 PM—** Both the New Auburn School District and the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District have made the decision to participate in a voluntary quarantine protocol for students exposed to COVID-19. Parents and/or guardians who have children attending these districts will be given the option to send their asymptomatic child(ren) to school even if they have been identified as a close contact to a positive case.

Chippewa County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) urges parents to closely symptom monitor students who have been exposed to the virus and identified as a close contact. It is also encouraged that parents and/or guardians have their child(ren) tested for COVID-19 on day six after exposure. Children who test positive will not be allowed in school or allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities. Further, children can be COVID-19 positive and remain asymptomatic; therefore, students who have been identified as a close contact should wear a mask for the 10-day duration of the optional quarantine. If a child is showing symptoms of COVID-19, please DO NOT send them to school. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever or chills, cough, fatigue, headache, difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, diarrhea, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or new loss of taste or smell.

Through the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chippewa County Department of Public Health has worked closely in partnership with all Chippewa County schools. As the pandemic continues, that partnership will remain. A positive and respectful collaborative relationship is important to protecting the health and safety of staff, students, their families, and the community. Additionally, CCDPH will continue to offer guidance and recommendations based on disease activity to schools throughout Chippewa County. CCDPH will also continue with contact tracing efforts and will report positive cases and exposures to all area schools.

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