

SAUK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

SCHOOL COVID-19 PROTOCOL

This protocol was created in partnership between Sauk County Public Health (SCPH), district administrators, and school nurses. It will evolve over time with experience and new evidence-based best practices and guidance. SCPH is committed to partnering with district administrators and all appropriate staff to adjust protocol as necessary.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

Sauk County Public Health (SCPH) and Sauk County School Districts will use the following indicators to determine school capacity. All measures are reported with data from the most recent 14-day period.

	In-person Learning	Reduced Capacity	Minimal Capacity
New Case Rate (per 10,000 people)	0-20	21-49	50+
Community Spread	<20%	20-30%	>30%
COVID-Like Symptoms in Emergency Rooms	No significant change from previous 14-day period		Significant change from the previous 14-day period
% Positive Tests Across Community	<5%	5-10%	>10%

In-person learning: full in-person school is allowed.

Reduced capacity: local district hybrid or virtual options based on district plan.

Minimal capacity: local district model based on virtual learning and special needs learning only.



Sauk County Public Health will work directly with district administrators to determine district and school capacity based on the above indicators. These indicators will also be used to inform district, school, grade, and classroom response protocols.

WORKING TOGETHER TO TRACK COVID ACTIVITY

Coordination with School Districts

- School nursing staff will coordinate communication to SCPH about absenteeism on a daily basis.
- SCPH will coordinate with school nurses and district administrators to communicate positive cases.

Potential Outbreak Investigation

SCPH will start a formal epidemiological investigation of a potential outbreak:

District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If 5% of students or staff or combination of the two in district are absent due to COVID-like symptoms <i>that are abnormal</i> for those individuals <i>and not isolated to one school</i> (unless district only has one building) OR • 1 positive case
School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If 5% of students or staff or combination of the two in building are absent due to COVID-like symptoms <i>that are abnormal</i> for those individuals <i>and not isolated to 1 grade or classroom in building</i> OR • 1 positive case
Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If 5% of students or staff or combination of the two in grade are absent due to COVID-like symptoms <i>that are abnormal</i> for those individuals <i>and not isolated to 1 school</i> (Unless district has only 1 classroom for a specific grade in question) OR • 1 positive case
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 students or staff or combination of the two are absent with COVID-like symptoms in 1 classroom <i>that are abnormal</i> for those individuals OR • 1 positive case

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REPORTED POSITIVE CASE

Universal Positive Case(s) Protocol

In the event that a positive case is identified by Sauk County Public Health (SCPH):

- SCPH notifies lead school RN and district administrator of every positive case.
- Person with a positive test result will be called by SCPH and informed of their result and the need to isolate for 10 days (including 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication and respiratory symptoms have improved) since symptoms began or the test was conducted (if no symptoms).
- School RN (or other appropriate staff) will coordinate with staff, faculty, parents and the student to determine close contacts of the student infected with COVID.
- Parents of close contacts, or adult close contacts, will be called and informed of the potential exposure and the need to quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure by SCPH and school RNs as appropriate.
- Because it takes longer than 24 hours to receive a test result, it is important that all frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected regularly. SCPH, school RN, and other staff will determine areas that may need to be disinfected before people can utilize the space.

Communicating with families and staff

Parents and staff will be notified about positive cases based on the following guidelines.

District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will notify parents and staff when there is a total of (2 x number of schools) or more positive cases within the district in a 28-day period, unless there are no close contacts or the exposure risk is minimal (as determined in consultation between SCPH and the district). <p><u>Example of calculation:</u> District has 6 schools. 2/school is the definition of an outbreak. $6 \times 2 = 12$, so the district would notify parents and staff when they have 12 positive cases across the district over a 28-day period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If more than 1 school is involved, district will notify all parents, staff, students and community in the district.
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will notify parents and staff when there are 2 or more positive cases within a school within a 28-day period, unless there are no close contacts or the exposure risk is minimal (as determined in consultation between SCPH and the district). • District will notify all school parents, students and staff.
Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will notify parents and staff when there are 2 or more positive cases within a grade within a 28-day period, unless there are no close contacts or the exposure risk is minimal (as determined in consultation between SCPH and the district). • District will notify all school parents, students and staff, not just those in the affected grade.
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will notify parents and staff when there is 1 or more positive case within a classroom within a 28-day period, unless there are no close contacts or the exposure risk is minimal (as determined in consultation between SCPH and the district). • District will notify all school parents, students and staff, not just those in the affected classroom.

For COVID-19, a **CLOSE CONTACT** is defined by WI Dept. of Health Services as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes, OR someone who had direct physical contact (e.g. hug, kiss, shake hands, etc.) with an infected person, OR someone who had contact with an infected person's respiratory secretions (cough, sneeze, contact with dirty tissue, sharing glass, food or other personal items.).