

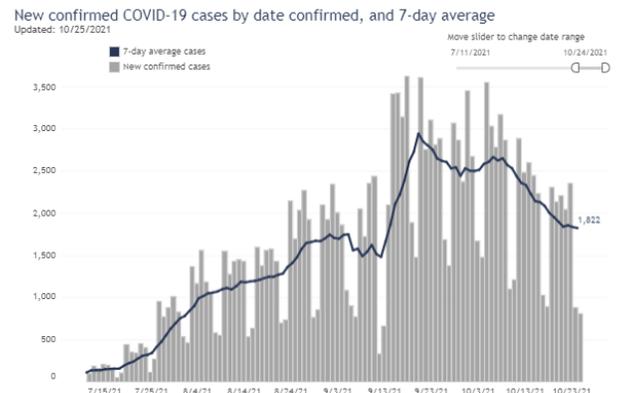
October 25, 2021

RE: Quarantine

Dear Bayfield County Superintendents and Health Staff:

Bayfield County Health Department (BCHD) will be modifying the recommendations for K-12 schools regarding quarantine timelines for unvaccinated children based on some *slight* improvements in local data surrounding the COVID pandemic including:

- Majority of regional hospitals are not currently reporting working under surge plans
- Decrease in current hospitalized residents with COVID over the last 30 days
- Decreasing trends in new positive COVID cases across Wisconsin
- Improved local COVID testing, including on-site for certain Bayfield County K-12 schools
- Fewer delays in turnaround times for laboratory results for COVID tests in northern Wisconsin



While I wish I could say that this is the beginning of the end of COVID, there are no guarantees - your guess is as good as mine about when we'll be through the worst of it. We're not in the clear just yet, but I am hopeful that we will see trends continue in the right direction with new positive cases and hospitalizations due to COVID.

**Our quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated persons who are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are as follows:**

1. Quarantine for the full 14 days is considered optimal.

**A shortened quarantine may be allowed for the following situation(s).**

2. A person in quarantine is asymptomatic and gets a negative PCR test on or after Day 5 from the date of exposure. If the person has a negative PCR test, they can be out of quarantine on Day 8. They should stay in quarantine through Day 7. When they return to school or a public setting with other persons not from the same household, the person should wear a mask while in public settings except for when necessary (ex. Eating lunch) through Day 14 (the last official day of quarantine). If the person develops COVID symptoms after the negative test but before Day 14, they need to quarantine once again (i.e. not be in a public setting or school) and the recommendation is for them to get a COVID test.

(Continued on Page 2)

Page 2  
Quarantine  
10/25/2021

3. Our current recommendation from Bayfield County Health Department is for unvaccinated persons (after a close contact) who do not get tested and do not get a negative test result on Day 5 or later, that they continue to stay home the full 14 days.
  - a. This has to do with our capacity at BCHD to do symptom monitoring at this point in time. Normally, a person could be released from quarantine on Day 11 if they have no symptoms and have been reporting symptoms to local Public Health. However, with the number of persons with positive test results and the number of persons exposed, setting up this many contacts for texting or email monitoring will be a challenge based on our staffing. It is allowable, but the person must complete twice daily symptom checks and report to Public Health twice per day consistently to be released early from quarantine with this no test option. More on this can be found here: [Next Steps: Close contacts of someone with COVID-19 \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)

Quick reminder, for those who are exposed to a person with COVID, but are fully vaccinated, the recommendation is that they wear a mask the full 14 days when in public settings and get tested between days 5-7 after close contact with a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Vaccinated persons can resume in-person instruction but are still recommended to wear a mask and get a test. (Note: Please review your COVID prevention plan, as there were small changes on the CDC website on October 19<sup>th</sup>, found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>, that may influence your local plan.)

Lastly, I'm counting on all of our schools to continue to keep up the good work with the COVID prevention plans that were developed over the summer and reviewed and honed continuously during the school year. The more prevention layers that schools are implementing and the more consistency in the implementation, the safer our students and school staff will be. It's also keeping our kids in-person in school for longer – which is a shared goal of ours.

Thank you for all your hard work this year to keep students in Bayfield County safe and well. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sara Wartman, BSN, RN, Cert. PH  
Director/Health Officer

Ph: (715)373-3315

Email: [sara.wartman@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:sara.wartman@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)