



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

October 24th, 2021

Good afternoon Ashby Families:

Over the last month, we have seen covid case numbers rise and fall in the school. During this time, we have taken a conservative approach in making sure that close contacts are notified and quarantined to prevent any spreading within our students and staff.

Through the month we have tracked the number of close contacts who became sick after exposure. Though we have seen the spread of covid in the school, we have also realized that the majority of our close contacts never became ill.

In an effort to continue to protect students and staff in Ashby School, as well as recognizing that students need to be in school if they are able, starting on Monday a new protocol will be put in place in regards to how we treat close contacts in school.

A student who is deemed a close contact will be given the following option:

1. To quarantine at home for 10 days without testing.
2. To quarantine for 7 days at home. After a negative test result on day 6 the student can return on day 8.
3. To wear a properly fitting mask at school during the designated quarantine period.
 - a. 10 days without testing.
 - b. 7 days after a negative test result on day 6.

A. Students choosing to mask through the quarantine period will need to wear a mask throughout the quarantine period in all school related functions.

B. Students will eat in a designated area where they are free to take off their mask and won't risk potential exposure to other students or staff.

Please note that students living in a house with an active case of covid will not be able to participate in the mask option until the case in the house has finished their quarantine period, unless the sibling is vaccinated.

Our goal is to continue to provide Ashby students and staff a safe learning environment, however, we also recognize that most students learn best while in school. We will continue to evaluate cases in our region and the school and may make modifications to the process as we see necessary.

Students who are currently quarantined due to being a close contact will be able to return to school tomorrow using the masking option if they should choose to do so. If your family is

making this choice, please notify the office first thing in the morning so staff can be notified and plans can be put in place.

In addition to our new policy, Ashby School has also received a shipment of take home rapid tests. Students who are symptomatic are able to take a box of two rapid tests home to use as they wish. More information on the tests and how they can be accessed will be sent out later this week. Ashby School is not requiring students to test, however we are trying to ensure that the accessibility to tests are available to families who need them.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate this school year. Should you have any questions or concerns please notify the office during normal school hours.

Thank you,

Jon Moore
Superintendent/Principal
Ashby Public School

Lisa Otte
Assistant Principal
Ashby Public School