Dear Seymour Families,

As we continue to learn more during this school year about the COVID-19 virus, we continue to make changes to align with what we learn. Recently the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidance related to close contacts with positive cases and the quarantine period. The Department of Health Services (DHS) reviewed those recommendations and determined those changes could be applied in our state. This guidance has provided possible quaratines of 7, 10 and 14 days with additional requirements for close contacts who are asymptomatic.

Being a school district puts us in a unique position since we feel not all of the alternatives given are feasible for an entire district to appropriately maintain. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has also shared guidance with school districts through a statement that states, “Both CDC and DHS continue to recommend the best option to reduce asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 is to complete a 14 day quarantine. Specifically, a quarantine that ends after Day 10 without testing and with no symptoms has an increased risk estimated to be about 1% with an upper limit of 10%. A quarantine that ends after Day 7 without testing and with no symptoms, has a risk of 5% with an upper limit of 12%.

Knowing this and after discussing the risks and benefits, the Seymour Community School District has made a change to our quarantine protocol to the 10 day quarantine. There are additional details and requirements that go along with making this decision possible as indicated by the CDC and WI DHS. In order to implement a 10 day quarantine, it means extra precautions and monitoring still need to happen on days
11-14. Students who come back to school after 10 days need to be very careful about physical distancing, always wearing a mask, and avoiding all group type activities or gatherings. They will also need their symptoms monitored daily before they will be allowed into school each morning.

We will begin implementing this for all staff and students, who are symptom free to return to school, starting next Monday, December 14th. However, there is an exception for student athletes who are currently in activities. While they will be allowed back in school after 10 days, they cannot return to sports until after 14 days. This is due to the fact that during the four days following the 10 days, people still need to follow physical distancing guidelines and avoid group type activities. Also, if the positive case in your household cannot isolate away from the others in your home, the quarantine of a close contact cannot start until the positive case is out of their isolation period. Quarantines start from the last contact had with a positive case.

There will be a google form on the website and the school district app that will need to be completed every morning on days 11-14. If it is not completed your child will be brought to the CARE room until we can reach a parent to answer the questions on the form.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your child’s principal or myself.

Take Care,

Laurie Asher
Superintendent