

September 21, 2020

Dear Seymour Community School District Families,

It is hard to believe that we are three weeks into school already. We are continuing to refine our processes related to illness and COVID-19. I want to share with you some of our procedures in this area.

### **Student or Staff who are Identified as a positive case with COVID-19**

Once we are notified that a person was positive for COVID we start our own contact tracing immediately and also contact the local health department. In most cases we are finding out before the health department, due to families reporting it directly to us when they get their test results back. We want to thank you so much for doing this. We immediately work with the health department to determine the infectious period and determine if the individual was at school during this time. We are finding out many times, they were not at school during their infectious time so we do not have to do any contact tracing. The local health department will still do contact tracing with the individual for contacts outside of school.

One thing that can be confusing, is many students and staff may stay home or be sent home with symptoms or because someone in their household may have symptoms. This doesn't mean they are a confirmed case so we do not start contact tracing until it is confirmed. Many times they test negative or the symptoms are due to something else so there is no need for contact tracing because they did not have COVID.

The other thing that can be confusing is even though they are positive, they may not have been at school during their infectious time. If this is true, we do not need to do contact tracing because they would not have come in contact with our staff or students when they could transmit the virus.

### **Close Contact to a Positive Person**

As part of the contract tracing process, we determine individuals who would be considered a close contact to the individual while at school. To be a close contact you would have to be within 6 feet of that person for a total of more than 15 minutes in a day. We then contact anyone identified as a close contact directly through a phone call and talk with them about quarantining and the amount of time they will need to quarantine. This varies because it is based on 14 days from the days from the last contact day with the positive person.

I know there are concerns related to positive cases and close contacts but unless you hear from us directly you should continue to follow the normal procedures we have in place. Monitor for symptoms each day before your child comes to school and if you do not have any, they can attend school as normal. If they do, please keep them and any of their siblings home and give your school office a call.

We will also be doing a district-wide notification for every positive case that we do have when the individual who tested positive was identified as being at school during their infectious period. We will identify the school but not anything in relation to the individual. We realize we may

have to do this often, but at this point feel being as transparent as possible is the best avenue. We will monitor this decision and if we feel in the future, just notifying the individual school is best, we may change to that procedure.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [lasher@seymour.k12.wi.us](mailto:lasher@seymour.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 920-833-2304, Ext 505.

Sincerely,

Laurie Asher  
Superintendent