



WESTBY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Administrator's Office, 206 West Ave So., Westby, WI 54667 608/634-0101 • Fax 634-0118

There's No Better
Place To Learn!

Westby Area High School 634-3101
Westby Area Middle School 634-0200

Westby Elementary School 634-0500
Coon Valley Elementary School 452-3143

July, 2020

Dear Families,

We want school to resume. We know students learn best and that our staff teach best in a face to face environment. We are trying to do everything we can in order to make this happen. We need to do this as safely as possible in order to minimize risk. Here are some of the changes we need to make that directly impact parents and caregivers.

As a condition of reopening for face to face instruction, visitors will be restricted in the building. Any visitor who is admitted will need to be screened upon arrival, wear a mask, and report directly to their designated area while maintaining social distancing. This means that drop off and pick up of students needs to be done from your vehicles.

In the Westby Area School District we will mask when we can't social distance.

Parent teacher conferences, IEP meetings and similar activities will be conducted via teleconferencing whenever possible (Google Meet, phone, etc.).

To request a meeting with a staff member, please call or send an email to the teacher and/or the principal and a teleconference will be scheduled.

For the fall, there will be no concerts in the WAPAC but there will be outdoor and other virtual options for enjoying performances.

We will spread out spectators for athletic events.

Please consider checking your family regularly for the following symptoms and seek testing when symptomatic: Fever of 100.0 or higher, chills, cough, muscle pain, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).

Important Messages regarding preventative measures:

- Wash hands regularly and often for at least 20 seconds.
- Practice social distancing.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inside of the elbow.
- Clean areas of the home where germs are commonly shared.
- If you're sick, please stay home from school/work and keep children home as well.
- Wear a mask when going into public places (stores, gas stations, etc.)

We realize how inconvenient many of these things might be. Again, we are doing this with the goal of getting our students back in our buildings so that learning can happen...and we need to follow these procedures so that we can do it as safely as possible. Thank you for your understanding!

Enclosures: DPI Masking Flyer, Vernon County Health Department Letter

The Westby Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex or any other factors outlined in state or federal law.

Vernon County Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

318 Fairlane Drive (Co Hwy BB) PO Box 209 Viroqua, WI 54665-0209
Phone 608-637-5251 FAX 608-637-5514

July 6, 2020

Notice to Parents Regarding COVID-19 for Return to School 2020-2021

Dear Parent:

Kind regards from the Vernon County Health Department. Our staff, in coordination with the Vernon County Emergency Operations Center would like to provide you with some information regarding COVID-19 prior to the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges thus far this year and the upcoming 2020-2021 school year will be no exception. We must all remember that this is an ever-changing situation and what may be true today, may not be true tomorrow.

The Health Department would like to share with you the process for contacting patients/parents (contact tracing) of a lab confirmed positive case that may occur during the school year. We hope that this will help answer questions you may have and help assist everyone in preparing and managing COVID-19 infections during the upcoming school year.

To start, when a positive test result is identified the following steps will occur:

- 1) The Health Department will be notified via the Wisconsin Electronic Surveillance System (WEDSS) of positive test result.
- 2) A nurse from the health department, from the county in which you reside, will contact the patient and/or parents of the positive test results within 24-48 hours.
- 3) Any patient that **tests positive will be directed to isolate at home until a minimum of 10 days from symptoms onset, improvement of symptoms and 72 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication occurs.** If

the patient is without symptoms and tests positive, isolation for 10 days will start from the date that the patient was tested positive.

- 4) The nurse will discuss with the parent and/or child which people they might have come in contact with while they were considered infectious with COVID-19.
- 5) The nurse will then ask for the names and numbers to contact those people that may be at risk of getting sick. The nurse will not share information about who the positive patient is, unless the patient and/or parents have given us permission to do so.
- 6) If your child is old enough to identify who they came within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes to, then those people will be directed to self-isolate. If they are too young to understand this questioning, it is possible that your child's entire classroom will be asked to isolate at home for 14 days, rather than 10 days. This is because the COVID-19 virus can take up to 14 days to make someone ill, therefore that is why we would ask that your child remain at home for the entire 14 days.
- 7) A liaison staff member from the school (either a school nurse or designee by the school) will also be in contact with the Health Department to coordinate care and discuss any other potential contacts within the school that may need to be notified.
- 8) A COVID-19 positive case will be considered recovered and able to return to school or work once the following scenarios have occurred:
 - a. A patient that tested positive has remained fever free for three days without the use of fever reducing medication, 10 days have passed since the start of symptoms and they have improvement of symptoms.
 - b. Students or teachers identified as a close contact of a lab confirmed case, has remained home for the full 14 days and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19.
 - c. Family members identified as close contacts to a positive case will work the local health department staff for return to work/school directives.

*****Please be advised that a return to school or work note for COVID-19 related illnesses will not be required this school year.**

You can keep up to date on all COVID-19 related information by visiting the Vernon County Health Department Website or visiting us on Facebook.
https://www.vernoncounty.org/departments/public_health_department/index.php

The Vernon County Emergency Operations Center is currently open Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Question? Call 608-637-5292 or 608-637-5251.

Thank you for your cooperation,

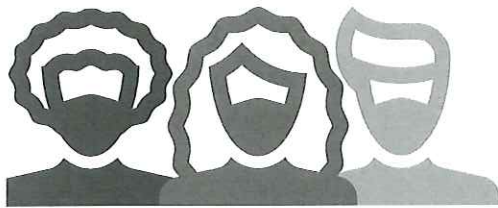
Amy Kleiber, RN, BAN
Deputy Section Chief, Vernon County Emergency Operations Center
Vernon County Health Department

CLOTH FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOLS

What Families Need to Know

A cloth face covering covers the nose and mouth while being secured to the head with ties or straps, or simply wrapped around the lower face. This document provides answers to some questions on how to effectively use and clean cloth face coverings. The CDC and DHS offer additional information on cloth face coverings and how to properly wear one.

Who should wear cloth face coverings?

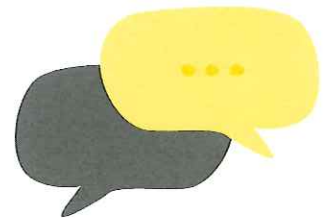


Cloth face coverings are strongly recommended for both students and staff who are able to wear and remove them properly. Cloth face coverings can help prevent the wearer from spreading disease if they are asymptomatic (do not show any symptoms) or do not realize they are sick.

However, there are valid concerns that may prevent an individual from wearing one safely. Cloth face coverings should NOT be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. Medical considerations, including autism spectrum disorder and respiratory conditions, as well as traumatic personal experiences, mean that some individuals are not able to wear a face covering safely. Wearing a cloth face covering may be dangerous or stressful for individuals with disabilities and young children. Individuals may also not be able to wear a face covering safely due to racial profiling or discrimination. Access to clean, appropriate, or multiple face coverings may also be a barrier.

How do I talk to my kids about why some people may not be able to wear a face covering?

This is a good opportunity to talk to your children about trauma, racism and discrimination, as well as the need for acceptance, understanding, and empathy regarding the reasons it may not be safe for everyone to wear a cloth face covering. Another opportunity for family discussion is the topic of protecting the health of friends, stressing that it is important for people who are able to wear a cloth face covering to do whatever they can to protect people who are less able to do so. Make sure kids understand that it isn't their job to enforce wearing or not wearing face coverings.



What is the rationale behind using the cloth face coverings?



Current recommendations support wearing cloth face coverings in public spaces where you are not able to stay at least 6 feet apart from others. Cloth face coverings help reduce the chance that you will spread the disease to others if you are asymptomatic or do not realize you are sick. This is because the coverings reduce the release of infectious particles into the air if the wearer speaks, coughs, or sneezes. It is important to note that cloth face coverings do NOT completely prevent the wearer from exposure to infectious particles, especially if you are in close contact with an infected person or if the person is not wearing their own mask.

The more we can help to slow down spread of disease, the more we help in terms of:

- Helping our community by protecting those most at-risk or vulnerable and reducing the burden on our health care system.
- Preventing the disruption of our children's education by reducing the likelihood of having mass absences or switching to virtual learning.
- Helping our economy to get back on its feet by reducing both disease spread and the likelihood of rolling back phases or increasing restrictions.

It seems that the recommendations keep changing—why should my kid wear a face covering?

At this time, the research suggests that wearing a cloth face covering can make a real impact on disease transmission and reduce the risk of spread. It is true that the research has evolved on this topic, and that is because doctors, scientists, and public health professionals are learning more and more about COVID-19 as they continue to treat, study, and track it. We acknowledge that cloth face coverings can be uncomfortable and inconvenient, but they are a valuable tool that we have control over to help decrease the risk of spread and keep our communities safer. Emphasizing this with children and talking to them about how we can all play a role in protecting each other can help make it easier for families to wear cloth face coverings. Further, stressing that every little bit counts and that mistakes (like forgetting to pull the face covering up all the way) are okay as long as they are committed to wearing it. Just like so many topics in childhood, there may still be accidents and mistakes as children learn and adapt to something new, but anytime a cloth face covering is worn, it can help reduce the potential of spreading COVID-19.



How do you wear a cloth face covering?



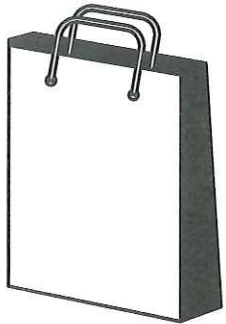
A cloth face covering should cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly on the face, and be secured in place via ear loops or strings that tie behind the head. Avoid touching the cloth face covering, especially if hands have not been washed recently.

When do you need to change a cloth face covering?

The same cloth face covering should not be worn more than a single day to allow for adequate cleaning. If the cloth face covering becomes soiled or damaged, more frequent changing is advised. The availability of multiple face coverings may be needed. The possibility of cloth face coverings becoming soiled or damaged should be considered as a likely scenario, especially for younger students. Schools should work with communities and families to try to provide extra face coverings for these kinds of situations.



How do you wash a cloth face covering? If you don't have regular access to a washing machine, what is the best way to wash a cloth face covering?



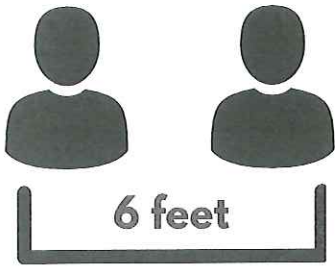
It's a good idea to wash your cloth face covering frequently as they should not be worn longer than one day before needing to be washed. Store them in a designated bag or bin until they can be laundered with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. If you are unable to machine wash the cloth face covering, wash it by hand with laundry detergent and hot water before air drying. Re-wearing a cloth face covering without washing it is not advised.

How do you care for your skin when wearing a cloth face covering regularly?

Wash face often, preferably directly before and after each use of the face covering, and apply moisturizer to decrease friction and reduce irritation. Wear a clean mask.



How can I make wearing a cloth face covering most effective?



Properly worn cloth face coverings help to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when the wearer speaks, coughs, or sneezes. However, they are not a replacement for physical distancing and handwashing and should be used alongside other best practices. Our best defense against COVID-19 is practicing good public health: washing our hands frequently; avoiding touching our eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoiding being around sick people; and physical distancing (at least 6 feet apart) from others, especially people we don't live with.

RESOURCES

CDC Recommendations on Cloth Face Covers

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

DHS Information on Cloth Face Covers

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

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