

Deer Park School District #2 2105 Middle Road Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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January 28, 2022

Dear families.

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to evolve and what we learn and know about it continues to evolve as well. Due to this ever-changing flow of information and knowledge, the Health Department has changed their procedures and will be moving away from contact tracing which will also eliminate quarantine recommendations.

The factors that have lead to this include:

- The large number of cases in which there are no symptoms or very mild symptoms
- The increase of individuals who are vaccinated
- The shorter amount of time between exposure and when symptoms develop

The Health Department still recommends that close contacts be informed by those who test positive, and that if possible, they test for COVID on day 2 and again on day 5 after their exposure. They further recommend that individuals should test if they develop symptoms after having been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID.

Deer Park School recommends that families and individuals choose their own course of action regarding Covid-19 testing and isolation decisions. If your child is not feeling well, consider keeping them home. If your child tests positive, isolating for 5 days is recommended. If your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive, isolation is not required and the student can still come to school. However, this is each family's decision to make and they must do what they feel comfortable with.

Thank you for your continued support of Deer Park School.

Sincerely,

Sheri Modderman