



Naquag Elementary School

The Wachusett Regional School District

September 26, 2020

Dear Naquag Elementary Parents & Guardians,

To help families prepare for the eventual return to in-person learning, it is important that the following information pertaining to student illness is reviewed before students start school. As the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the medical community learn more about COVID-19, it is possible that this guidance will change. The information below is based on the most recent, reliable medical guidance.

Parents whose child has one or more of the following signs/symptoms of illness, that are also associated with COVID-19, should keep their child home from school. **It is also recommended that parents contact their primary care physician for further evaluation:**

- Fever of 100.0° F or higher accompanied by chills
 - Persistent cough that is not due to another known cause such as chronic cough
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Headache in combination with other symptoms listed here
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - Fatigue in combination with other symptoms listed here
 - Nasal congestion or runny nose that is not due to other known causes such as allergies and is in combination with other symptoms listed here
- [Click here for the CDC's COVID-19 Information Page](#)

The following information, related to when child(ren) may return to school, is based on the WRSD School Reopening Plan and Department of Health guidance:

1. If a student is referred for further medical evaluation for **symptoms of illness**, they may only return to school with a note from their doctor or following a 10-day quarantine **IF** symptoms have improved **AND** they are fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
2. Close contact is defined by the CDC as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset



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(or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

If a student is considered to be a **close contact**, they may only return to school following a 14-day quarantine period, even if a negative COVID-19 test result is received.

It is recommended that anyone who is considered close contact gets tested for COVID-19 four to five days following exposure.

3. If a student has tested **positive for COVID-19**, they may return to school 10 days following documentation of the start of symptoms *if they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication* **AND** *if their symptoms have improved*.
4. Important: All documentation must be faxed or emailed to the health office prior to returning to school.

As the District refines and finalizes school reopening plans, it is understood that there may be situations unique for families that require further discussion. Naquag's school nurse (Nurse Amy @ Amy_McGeary@wrsd.net) is available to discuss these situations, as well as to provide further explanation for the protocols outlined in this message. Please be aware that the WRSD school nurses have been integral in shaping the District's protocols and procedures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and they are a valuable resource for parents and guardians.

I appreciate the questions and concerns that have arisen in our outreach to the families of students. Our ability to work together and collaborate during this difficult period of time is integral to our success.

Sincerely,

Dixie Estes
Principal, Naquag Elementary School