



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID-19 PSS Staff & Faculty

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19 through community or self-testing, do not report to work. Contact the COVID-19 Surveillance Testing at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center or self report at <https://www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting/>. You will receive an email with your Isolation Order. You might be asked to quarantine in your home or at a government facility depending on the severity of your symptoms or your pre-existing conditions.

You are advised to inform your principal or immediate supervisor and to request

1. Remote Work
2. Sick Leave (or any other accrued leave)

Your principal/immediate supervisor will inform you of the required documentation for your approved request.

If you avail of community testing or school based testing and you are awaiting results, you may continue to work unless you are presenting symptoms or have been instructed by the task force to self-isolate until your results are available.

1. If you test negative you will receive an email or be contacted by the task force and you may report to work.
2. If a positive result is detected, you will receive Isolation Orders and should not report to work.
3. You may inform your Principal/Program Director/Designee but you are not obligated to share results of your testing. However, you must adhere to the PSS requirements for applying for sick or annual leave.

If you are required to be isolated, you may return to work/school after completing your isolation and showing no symptoms for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

What if I have symptoms at work or school?

PSS Schools and offices have school based tests that you can avail of or you can administer a self-test. You may request to avail of leave if your symptoms persist, or speak with your immediate supervisor for any accommodations.

What do I do if a student in my class/school or a colleague tests positive?

In each identified case, the Commissioner of Education or designee will consult with CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to determine what measures need to be taken. This decision will be based on the degree of cases, resources available, and updated protocols/directives.

Are there any increased risks to school staff?

Schools continue to be safe environments and have a wide range of mitigation measures in place designed to minimize transitions risk and which make our schools safe for children and staff.

All school staff have now had the opportunity to have two vaccines as well as boosters. The CNMI Public School System has a 90% vaccination rate for staff and teachers. Additionally, mitigation measures are in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Optional masks in all PSS buildings.
2. Sanitizing and regular cleaning
3. Screening and vaccination efforts in collaboration with CHCC

When cases are identified, school administrators and supervisors will take immediate action to ensure that the school building/classroom is safe for all who enter. These include:

- Sanitizing the space for staff and students
- Updating the district tracking sheet and communicating with leadership
- Providing updated information to staff while maintaining the privacy of individuals
 - Confirming whether positive cases are identified without disclosing names
 - Reassuring staff that sanitizing is being conducted
 - Communicating with leadership and the Task Force regarding concerns that parents and staff may have

If masks are optional for K-12 schools, can I still use a mask? Masks are still required on PSS buses because of the close contact and in isolation rooms to prevent the spread of germs and other contagious illnesses, but they are optional in class and elsewhere on campus. However you may still wear a mask if you prefer to.

There are many reasons why someone might choose to use a mask, even when it isn't required.

- Protecting a family member at home
- Having a weak immune system
- Experiencing cold or flu and tested negative for COVID, to prevent spreading other germs
- Personal preference
- Many other reasons

What is the contagious period?

Individuals who recover from COVID-19 are no longer contagious after 10 days from testing positive. According to the CDC, individuals can be released from self-quarantine after 10 days from the onset of symptoms and/or a positive test.

If I test positive can my family members work or go to school?

If they are negative, they may attend school or report to work as long as they are not presenting symptoms. If any symptoms present themselves, individuals are urged to monitor themselves and avail of testing.

Will student/staff/teacher results be shared with the school or district?

The PSS communicates directly with persons identified as being positive and does not share that information with school personnel. PSS tracks COVID-19 absences/illnesses but does not report names.

Can the school or office share a name of the student or staff member who is a confirmed case of Covid-19?

No, PSS cannot share the name of the person who has tested positive for Covid-19. This information is private and confidential. Close contacts will not be told the name of the confirmed case.

How long can COVID-19 be detected in my system after I have recovered?

The COVID-19 virus can be detected up to 90 days after recovering from it. This does not mean that you are contagious or that you cannot be re-infected so you should monitor yourself closely to ensure that any symptoms you have are not related to COVID-19. The virus may also show up in testing for 90 days, so monitoring your symptoms is important to ensure you remain healthy.

What if the press media or wider school community contact the district/school?

Your information is confidential, PSS may share the data regarding numbers of positive cases but will not share names or identifiable information.

The following is a generic statement that offices/schools may wish to consider using in full or part in response to press/media queries.

“The school cannot comment on individual cases or outbreaks of Covid-19 to protect the privacy and confidentiality of those involved. The school can confirm that we have engaged with The COVID-19 Task Force. The Task Force’s role includes carrying out a risk assessment. As part of this risk assessment, close contacts will be identified, contacted and advised of the next steps. If the Task Force does not make contact with you, you are not impacted and can continue to attend school. The school will continue to work with the Task Force in ensuring all necessary hygiene, health and safety protocols are in place at the school for the prevention and containment of Covid-19.”

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The CNMI Public School System is committed to protecting the personal and personal health information that may be disclosed to schools for the purpose of contact tracing and should only be used for that purpose. School boards/schools/child care operators have an obligation to protect the personal and personal health information of their students and staff. The identity of cases should not be disclosed to parents, or to other students unless deemed necessary by Public Health Officials.