



September 17, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to notify you that at least one student or staff member within the Valders Area School District has tested positive for COVID-19. We are actively working with the Manitowoc County Health Department to quickly identify, notify, and quarantine any students or staff who may have come into close contact with them and who may be at risk of getting sick. We are also cleaning and disinfecting the school to control the spread of illness.

Because the COVID-19 positive person had direct and continuous exposure to several students and staff it has been determined that the Valders Middle School and High School must close for a minimum of two weeks. The district will not be able to find enough substitute teachers to cover all of the staff who need to remain home and isolate due to the close contact they had with the positive COVID-19 person. There will be no school Friday, September 18 for ALL Students (including elementary students). There will be additional cleaning completed in the buildings tomorrow, Friday.

School will resume Monday, September 21 – online for middle school and high school students – in person (or continued online) for elementary students. The potential return date for middle school/high school students to return in person is October 5. If you have children in middle school your principal will send a separate email providing information regarding Chromebook pick up.

Information regarding picture day for the Middle and High School will be sent at a later date.

About COVID-19

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new coronavirus. It spreads from person to person through droplets created when we cough, sneeze, talk, sing or laugh. Most people—especially young people—who get COVID-19 have mild illness, similar to having a cold or the flu. However, in others it can cause severe illness, such as pneumonia. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature 100.4°F or higher)
- Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Chills
- Muscle/body aches
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

The CDC's website has good information about COVID-19: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

What to Expect

- If your child had close contact with a person with COVID-19, you will receive a separate letter with special instructions about monitoring symptoms, testing, and how to keep others in your home from getting sick.
- If your child did not have close contact with a person with COVID-19 in our school, you will not receive another letter. However, everyone in your household should continue to stay home as much as possible, wash their hands frequently, keep 6 feet away from others, wear a mask or cloth face covering in public, watch for symptoms of COVID-19, and seek medical care when sick.
- If you know your child has an underlying health condition, you may wish to discuss the option of switching to online instruction with your health care provider.
- Someone from the Manitowoc County Health Department may reach out to you with questions. Please assist them as they work to investigate and control COVID-19 in our school.

Prevent Further Spread

The following guidelines will help to prevent further spread of illness at our school:

- Notify the school if your child is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Notify the school if your child had contact with someone who you know was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Keep students home from school if they are sick.
- Encourage good habits: frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, use of face coverings in public, and staying home as much as possible.

More information is available on the Manitowoc County Health Department website at <https://www.co.manitowoc.wi.us>.

If you have any further school related questions, please call Vicki Claybrook at 920-775-9500 ext. 5123.

Sincerely,

Debra Hunt, PhD
Superintendent

Vicki Claybrook, RN, BSN
School Nurse

Erica Lopnow, RN, BSN, MS
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