



COVID-19

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

Information for School Nurses

As you're probably well aware, a new coronavirus called 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus has not been previously found in humans. There are thousands of cases in China, and additional cases are being identified in the United States, but only one confirmed case in Wisconsin.

We know many parents are concerned about their children being exposed to the virus, and we first want to assure everyone the risk of getting the virus remains low.

To assist you with talking to parents and students about this virus, we are providing a list of frequently asked questions.

What are the chances of my child getting this coronavirus?

The risk is remains low.

What about students or staff who have visited China?

- If a student or staff member is supposed to be isolated, the local health department will make those arrangements with them.
- Healthy students and staff who visited China and were in the United States before February 2, 2020 can go to school as they normally would.
- Students and staff returning from China after February 2, 2020, will be contacted by their local health department on an individual basis and will be advised if they can go to school or not.
- Any students and staff who are sick should stay home from school.

What are the symptoms of 2019 Novel-Coronavirus?

The symptoms are fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Should my child be wearing a mask to avoid catching coronavirus?

It's not necessary for anyone to wear a mask during the normal course of their day. The best way to avoid COVID-19, or any virus, is to practice good health hygiene habits. These include:

Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water aren't available.

Cough and sneeze into tissues, or into your arm.

Stay home when you're sick.

Flu is very active in Wisconsin and families should be taking precautions to avoid influenza by following the instructions listed above and by getting flu shots.

Learning opportunity:

COVID 19 presents a good opportunity to teach students about avoiding stigma. Be sure to tell students and parents that it is travel and contact, not ethnicity that can cause someone to get this virus.

The COVID-19 investigation changes virtually every day, but there is reliable, factual, and clear information available from your local and state health departments and the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

DHS updates its [information on the state's investigation of COVID-19](#) Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. We encourage you to monitor the page frequently for new information about this virus and investigation.