School and Child Care
COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

How can I protect my child against COVID-19?

- **Make sure your family is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.** Everyone ages 6 months and older should get vaccinated and everyone 5 years and older should get boosted for the best protection.

- **Make sure your child wears a mask or respirator** in counties with a High COVID-19 Community Level if they are 2 years or older. They can also wear one if it makes them feel safer, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level.

- **Get your child tested for COVID-19.** If they develop symptoms, they should be tested right away. If your child is exposed to COVID-19, they should get tested at least 5 days after exposure.

- **Make sure your child washes their hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or that they use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

- **Check your area's COVID-19 Community Level** when making decisions for your family. You can check your area's community level at www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/data.htm.

Should my child wear a mask?

- **The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends that everyone wear a well-fitting mask in the following circumstances and spaces:**
  - In all indoor spaces in areas with a high COVID-19 Community Level
  - In health care settings, including school nurses' offices, no matter the COVID-19 Community Level
  - For 10 days after being exposed to COVID-19
  - For at least 10 days after developing symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19. People may use antigen testing to potentially shorten the length of time they need to wear a mask after isolation. Learn more at www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm.

- **Masks are not recommended for children under 2 and for people with some disabilities.** In these circumstances, take other steps like improving airflow and keeping distance between people to prevent spreading COVID-19 after exposure.

- **If your child is immunocompromised or has a disability that increases their risk of getting very sick with COVID-19, ask a doctor if they should wear a mask in school.**

- **Schools might require masking in classrooms or during certain activities to protect students with conditions that increase their risk for getting very sick with COVID-19.** Students with these conditions should not be placed into separate classrooms or otherwise segregated from other students. Find information and support at sites.edu.gov/idea/.

What if my child is exposed to COVID-19?

- **Have your child wear a well-fitting mask around others at home,** in public, and in school for 10 days after their exposure.

- **Watch for symptoms** such as cough, fever, and other symptoms of COVID-19. If your child develops symptoms, they should separate from others as much as possible and get tested for COVID-19.

- **Get your child tested at least 5 days after their exposure to COVID-19.** If they test positive, they need to isolate at home.

- **Visit www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm** to learn more about what to do after being exposed to COVID-19.

What if my child is sick?

- **If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, they should begin wearing a well-fitting mask, stay home, and get tested.** If they test positive, they should stay home for at least 5 days and then wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days.

- **If your child tests negative for COVID-19,** they should stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms like vomiting and diarrhea have gone away. If your child initially tested negative with an at-home antigen test, it means the test did not detect COVID-19 at the time, but doesn't rule out that they could have it. If they still have symptoms of COVID-19, test them again 48 hours after their first negative test.

- **Visit www.dhs.wi.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm** for more information on what to do if your child has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT *of* **HEALTH SERVICES**