



Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah School District

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COVID Update – Testing Availability/Contact Tracing Impact (October 20, 2021)

First and most importantly, I want to thank parents and staff for your cooperation and vigilance during this very challenging time. Due to the efforts of all, we have been able to keep all instruction on-site and have had limited need to quarantine students due to being identified as close contacts. These efforts include at school: spacing for social distancing, contact tracing, practicing/encouraging personal hygiene, etc., and at home: monitoring for symptoms, keeping children who are not feeling well home, communicating with school about contacts with positive cases, etc. Also, as a District, we are continually monitoring our local and county data and are in contact with Sheboygan County Health on a regular basis.

Communication among all is one of the most valuable “tools” we have to keep our students and staff in a safe environment and keep our students learning on-site.

Another “tool” to which our staff, students, families and community will now have access is free COVID testing that is available daily (M-F) and at a convenient location. The ELG and Plymouth School Districts partnered to utilize the free testing service offered by the WI Dept. of Health Services. This testing site is housed at Plymouth High School. Testing is totally voluntary. However, as it may be useful for some parents for a variety of reasons, we wanted to make everyone aware of this service. For example, testing may help determine whether the symptoms a child (or adult) is exhibiting is COVID or something else, may be helpful in reducing quarantine times for non-household close contacts, may provide reassurance to parents and students, may provide early identification of COVID cases before it comes into the school, etc. Information on testing is included below and will also be posted on our school website, along with consent forms.

Covid-19 testing – Now Available:

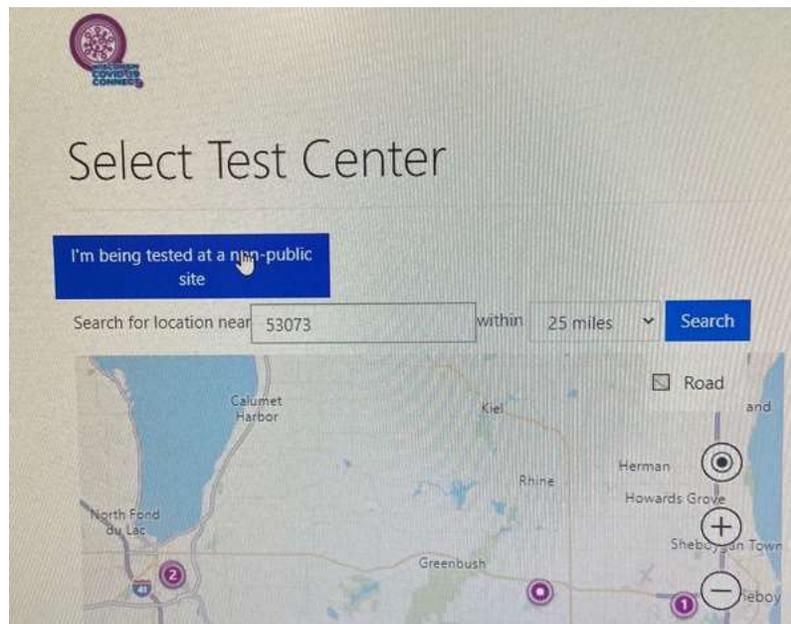
- The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District is participating with Plymouth School District to offer free COVID testing made available by the WI Department of Health Services through the “COVID Clinic” service.
- Now that we are offering free testing, we will allow for testing to reduce quarantine times for close contacts, but the results must come from an “approved” test site such as this. While home tests can be useful, those results will not be acceptable to reduce quarantine times.

Who is eligible?

- Testing is available for all staff, students, families and community members ages 2 and up.
- Individuals can test if they have symptoms or possible exposure, before or after travel or large events, or on a regular basis as often as desired. Testing may also help verify home test results.
- Testing is voluntary. ALL students must be accompanied by an adult and have a signed consent form.

How do I get tested?

- Pre-register for testing at register.covidconnect.wi.gov. (If you do not have an email address, use FIRSTNAME.LASTNAME@noemail.com and the school testing staff will contact you with test results by phone.) Pre-registration is preferred, but you also can register at the site if necessary.



TIP: At the end of registration, you will be asked for your location. Select "I'm being tested at a non-public site."

- The test site will be open 7am to 4 pm weekdays (except holidays) on the grounds of Plymouth High School, 125 S. Highland Ave.
- Park in the designated spots in the lot in front of the school and go to the tent south of the auditorium doors.
- Please do not park in the driving lane, and please do not enter the school.

What is involved in testing?

- Only taken is a nasal swab (NOT a nasopharyngeal, or deeper swab) at this site, a much easier and painless method.
- Participants will get both a rapid antigen test and a PCR test.

How do I get the results?

- Test results (PCR) are typically available in 3-5 days, though some results (rapid antigen) may be available as fast as 15-30 minutes.
- You will be notified by text message when your results are available. You can access the results via a secure link in an email sent to the address on file. (If you do not have email, testing staff will contact you by phone.)

Impact of Testing on Quarantine Times on Close Contacts:

The definition the District is using to identify a close contact has not changed since last year, but for this school year, there are some exceptions that can apply.

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- a. **Close Contact:** Anyone who was within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 15 minutes total in a day and/or lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person. For the most part, the District will be looking at the classrooms settings and confined spaces (such as bus rides) for identifying close contacts.
- b. **Due to availability of testing, there is now a third option ELG will accept for the quarantine period for identified non-household close contacts who are and remain asymptomatic. The options now are 7, 10, or 14 days – the school will work this out with the individual/parent based on the circumstances of the contact. These are briefly explained below:**

Quarantine Timeline Options (Non-Household Close Contact):

Note: Quarantine timeline starts the day AFTER the last day of contact of exposure to a positive case.

Also Guidelines to be followed for ALL Quarantine Options:

- Daily symptom monitoring must continue through Day 14. If symptoms develop at any time, individuals must immediately self-isolate and get tested.
- Individuals must adhere strictly to recommended COVID spread prevention practices, including wearing of facial coverings upon return to school through the 14th day after exposure if returning earlier than that timeline. **Early return-to-school options are only available IF a student complies with the requirement to wear facial coverings through the 14 day quarantine period. Otherwise, students will be required follow the 14-Day quarantine option.**

7-10 Day Quarantine Option—No Symptoms, Negative Test Option

Day 6: Eligible for COVID Test on Day 6 or after.

Day 7: Last Day of Quarantine if negative test and no symptoms. Can return to school but must follow directions listed above. Return to school can begin on Day 8.

10-Day Quarantine Option – No Symptoms, No Test Option:

Day 10: Quarantine can end **after** Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. Return to school can begin on Day 11.

14-Day Quarantine Option (recommended by Public Health/CDC for people who are at higher risk) –No symptoms, No Test Option:

Day 14: Quarantine can end **after** Day 14 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported. Return to school on Day 15.

Quarantine Timeline Options (Household Close Contacts):

Our original plan as stated in our Return-to-School Plan, **if a student/family member or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms and/or is being tested for COVID-19, immediate notification to the building principal or District Administrator would be very much appreciated. Family members should stay home until test results are verified.** Family members will be quarantined for 14 days if someone in the family/household tests positive. The first day of quarantine begins the following day after last contact of a positive case. Vaccinated are excluded from quarantine. However, as always, if a vaccinated person would show signs or symptoms, feeling, ill, etc., he/she should stay home.

One change from original plan: The quarantine time period may be reduced to 10 days, but as this is a household contact, a negative test result on Day 10 or after (Day 11, 12, 13, 14) would be required to reduce the

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quarantine time. If a student has an earlier return to school, he/she would need to following the “Guidelines for all Quarantine Options” as listed in the non-household close contact section, including the wearing of face covering through the 14th day.

Please note: Due to ongoing exposure, household contacts that are unable to completely separate from the positive case are required to quarantine for the duration the positive case in is isolation, and an additional 7-14 days from the positive case’s last day of contact. Principals will work with families in this situation.

Exceptions when individuals identified as close contacts do not have to quarantine, as long as they are not showing any signs of illness or displaying any symptoms. These remain as shared previously:

- a. **In an indoor classroom setting, students are excluded from being identified as a close contact if both the infected student and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore a mask during the time when they were within 6 feet.**

While masks are optional, it is for this reason we are encouraging all students to have a mask at school so they can be worn when working in close proximity with others in a small group setting (ex: science lab, small reading or math groups, etc.). If children are masked and there is a positive case, while the positive case will need to be isolated at home, the others who were in close contact could remain at school and not have to be quarantined. However, this only works if both parties are masked. This exception only applies to students – not for adults.

Reminder: While masks are optional at school, wearing a mask is required while riding school transportation (bus or school van) per Federal mandate. We expect students to cooperate and follow this mandate.

- b. **Vaccinated individuals who are symptom-free will not need to quarantine after coming into contact with someone who is positive. However, these individuals will be required to wear a mask for 14 days after exposure.** This exception applies for both students and adults.
- c. **Students/staff who had tested positive for COVID who are symptom-free will not need to quarantine after coming into contact with someone who is positive if this exposure is within 90 days of having COVID.** This exception applies for both students and adults.

As was stated at the beginning of the letter, our goal is to have our students stay on-site as much as possible throughout the school year, as that is where they learn best. Also, students need the social contact and the various extra-curricular activities – just as adults do.

And, I will continue to stress (and repeat from my Sept. letter): In order to accomplish this goal, we will need your continued patience, cooperation and flexibility. As of now, we haven’t had school transmission, and we can only hope that continues. But if things would change, please know, our plan may need to be modified for short periods of time to adjust to various conditions. We hope these are just minor adjustments, such as limiting/modifying visitors and volunteers during the school day, but if we see school transmission, it could involve more plan modifications—targeted at a specific grade level, school or the entire District. This would not be done lightly and without much thought and consideration for all concerned. If it would rise to this level, the District would work with the County Health Department to consider strategies to limit and/or stop the spread.

The more efforts and precautions we take as a school community to limit the spread of COVID, (staying home when sick, practicing personal hygiene, choosing to mask when in close contact, etc.), the better our odds of continuing as we now are.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the building principals or me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Buechel Haack