

COVID-19 Updates December 2, 2020:

There have been a lot of questions regarding the news release that the CDC is changing its quarantine guidelines and wondering if Zumbrota Mazeppa School District will be changing its quarantine guidelines based on this announcement.

According to CNN, "The new CDC guidelines will recommend close contacts of those infected with the coronavirus should quarantine for 7 to 10 days after exposure, down from the 14 days currently recommended. Individuals can end their quarantine after 7 days if they receive a negative test, or 10 days without getting tested."

These new CDC guidelines have not officially been released or updated on their website. I had a meeting with officials from the Minnesota Department of Health today and they stated that they will be reviewing the guidance as a state when it is officially released by the CDC and will discuss changing MDH current guidance. It will take time for them to review this data and make changes if necessary. Until this has been done all Minnesota schools will continue to be required to follow the current MDH guidelines: **Close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case must be quarantined for 14 days from last contact and may not test out of quarantine.**

The COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth and Child Care Programs was updated to make it easier to follow and understand. None of the content or COVID-19 symptoms have changed, just the language for ease of reading. You can view the new Decision tree here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

I would again like to stress how important it is for all families to continue to communicate with the school regarding any Zumbrota-Mazeppa student in grades PreK-12 who has been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, are currently quarantining or have tested positive. Please call school nurses at 507-732-1411 or email tiffanyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us with any COVID related student information or concerns.

The district uses this data to help us plan for when students can return to "in person" learning in the school safely. If we do not have accurate school data to review all we have to go off for return to school planning are the County COVID-19 data. Thanks for your help and understanding regarding the importance of this communication.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Tiffany Boraas, RN
Licensed School Nurse/District COVID-19 Coordinator
Zumbrota Mazeppa Schools
tiffanyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us