

FAQs for Families

Resources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[Public Health Madison & Dane County](#)

Public Health Madison & Dane County Coronavirus Information Line (informational recording updated regularly): 608-243-058

What are the symptoms of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)? The following symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2 - 14 days after exposure: fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Should you or your child(ren) have flu-like symptoms, communicate directly with your physician about your symptoms and call **BEFORE** visiting Urgent Care or the Emergency Room. Do not call 911 for general guidance. 911 lines should be reserved for emergencies. If you do have a medical emergency and call 911, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

How is COVID-19 spread? The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

How do I help prevent the spread of COVID-19? For current updates, please visit the Public Health Madison & Dane County website. Below are strategies to help prevent the spread of disease.

- **Anyone who is sick should stay home.** Don't go to work or school, and don't run errands.
- **Monitor your symptoms and call your doctor.** If you have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your doctor.
- **Avoid visiting hospitals, long term care facilities, or nursing homes.** If you must go, stay at least six feet from people whenever possible.
- **Practice social distancing.**

Visit the CDC website for more information about what COVID-19 is, how it spreads, its symptoms, prevention and treatment, and what the public can do to stay healthy.

What is Westside Christian School doing to prevent the spread of disease and to stay proactive?

Staff and students are taking the following steps to help prevent the spread of disease:

- Engaging classrooms in [regular handwashing](#), specifically before and after recess, snacks and lunch, and prior to using computers or pianos.
- Practicing good hygiene by following [coughing and sneezing etiquette](#).
- Frequently wiping down surfaces with disinfectant wipes.
- We have changed some lunchroom protocols regarding cleaning of lunch tables and handling of food.
- Monitoring children for illness and isolating them from other students if found to have fever. Also ensuring that children known to have had a fever are kept home until they are fever-free for 24 hours, without medication.

We also monitor student absences daily and have not seen an increase in absences due to illness. While we cannot require you to disclose medical information, we would appreciate it if, when calling your student out due to illness, you would include specific symptoms so we can continue monitoring for patterns of illness. If a large volume of patterns are detected, we will consult with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and follow their guidance. Likewise, if someone who has been in our building (e.g., student, teacher, parent, parishioner) tests positive for COVID-19, the Wisconsin Department of Health will contact us directly to provide information and guidance on how to keep others safe.

We are continuing to monitor guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We have also been collaborating with the Wisconsin Health Department and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Their current recommendation is that schools continue to work on updating emergency plans and general germ prevention practices. We will follow the guidance from these organizations on when to close school and/or restrict activities.

How can I talk to my child about what's going on?

Please take time to talk with your child about COVID-19 and what they may be seeing/hearing on the tv, radio, online or at school.

Here are some suggestions for talking with your children:

- Stick to the facts. It can be scary to hear about a disease outbreak, but learning the facts can help ease your mind.
- Help the child remain calm, and assure them their risk is low.
- Remind them it is best to be prepared in difficult situations.

It is important to avoid assumptions or stereotypes about who you think might be sick. Viruses cannot target people from specific populations, ethnicities, or racial backgrounds. A person's race does not make them more or less likely to be sick or to get sick.

Please help us educate our students by working with them at home on proper germ prevention techniques.

If our family is traveling for spring break, can my child return to school right away?

The following is based on current recommendations available at the time of this communication. Westside will comply with any additional travel restrictions or quarantine requirements made by Public Health Madison & Dane County as the situation develops. This includes, but is not limited to, the exclusion of students, faculty, and family members from school and extracurricular activities for a prolonged period of time.

To minimize the spread of illness, Public Health Madison & Dane County recommends that people postpone or cancel non-essential business and personal travel to areas with high levels of confirmed cases of coronavirus. This includes both international travel to [Travel Health Notice Level 2 and 3 countries](#) with widespread illness and [domestic travel to states with more than 10 cases](#). Please see [CDC's state report website](#) for the most up-to-date state level case information.

If travel is essential, Public Health recommends that you put yourself and your family under a 14-day self-quarantine upon return from any of these countries or states, regardless of whether or not you have symptoms. At this time, Public Health does not consider airport layovers to be a risk. If there is a need to travel through a state with more than 10 cases via layover, minimize your stay within the airport.

I hear in the news that schools may close, when would that happen? Westside is working closely with both the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Public Health Madison Dane County. We will follow and adhere to their directions regarding closing schools. Our staff has also begun developing contingency plans if we are required to move to a virtual learning format for an extended period of time.

As the situation develops, we will determine whether to continue with planned field trips and the 7th and 8th grade class trip.

How does the Wisconsin Department of Health Services determine when a school/school district needs to close? Public Health Madison & Dane County is currently creating plans for various levels of response, depending on case count and community spread. Included in this planning are thresholds/peak caseloads that would move us into the next phase of action, and specific recommendations to schools, businesses and health care systems for each phase. These plans are being created in real time and have not yet been shared with the public. Right now, we remain in Phase 1 (low community risk), which recommends school districts continue to work on updating our existing emergency operations plans and general germ prevention practices.

If school was closed for a prolonged period of time, would there be any plans for children to still be able to access education? Yes, but it would be limited and modified. We are currently working on developing a contingency plan for online learning. Should it become necessary, Westside Christian School may conduct some classes via the internet. In this situation, we will implement a plan to issue Chromebooks to students who need them. Please let Principal Meredith Pucci know right away if you do not have a reliable device for your child to have the ability to attend class and submit assignments online.

How will Westside keep families informed with COVID-19-related updates? The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving and changing. Westside will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates to staff and families as needed on any major changes that directly affect our school. For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, we encourage you to visit the CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health Service, Public Health Madison & Dane County, or Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction webpages.