

COVID-19 School Update

DATE: 3/18/2020

MINUTES PREPARED BY: TRACY SCHULTZ

LOCATION: CONFERENCE CALL; SLIDES WILL BE PROVIDED

Presenters:

- Wendy Hatch, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- Susan Klammer, MDH Epidemiologist
- Erika Yoney, MDH School Health Consultant

Agenda

- Situational Awareness Update
- Testing Guidance Updates
- MDE Updates

Meeting notes

Welcome and purpose of the call

Announcements:

- Pausing on calls for now and moving forward:
 - MDH will have regular calls with school nurses only
 - MDE Superintendents and charter schools leaders only
- Larger calls have an inability to have Q and A so we are moving to inform smaller groups listed above
- Sign-up for [MDE's COVID-19 updates](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNMDE_1704)
(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNMDE_1704)
- MDE for Educational Questions Email: covid-19.questions.mde@state.mn.us
- MDH for Public Health Questions Email: Health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us

Susan Klammer, Presenter: MDH Situational Aware Update

- As of 3/17/2020 there have been 2,300 tests run with 60 diagnosed cases with evidence of community transmission, but most cases have had a travel association
- You can view most recent data on overall case numbers on the [MDH's Situation Update](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>)

- MDH case investigation process:
 - Individuals are self-diagnosing and/or being clinically diagnosed without a positive test
 - Lab-confirmed case investigation, meaning MDH has a lab where we receive specimens and we run them in our lab and/or we receive outside lab testing from an outside lab
 - If there is a positive test MDH will do a case investigation with 1 – 2 hour interview with the individual asking:
 - When did symptoms onset?
 - Where were they?
 - Who were they with?
 - For how long and what kind of contact?
 - MDH will categorize where we see low, medium and high-risk related others
 - We will follow-up with those who fall in a medium/high risk category
 - If a medium or high-risk exposure occurs in a school we will notify your district contact and work with you on notification, messaging and next steps within your school community
 - Sometimes the person may find out about a positive result (lab-confirmed) before MDH knows and we will need to
 - Confirm the result
 - Conduct a contact investigation
 - These things need to happen before MDH can work with you on notification, messaging and next steps
 - If this occurs please contact us directly using our schools inbox:
health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us
 - Timeframe of the investigation and notifications after a positive result:
 - Contact with the individual happens the same day we receive the report and/or within 24 hours
 - Call and follow-up with close contacts happens the same day or the next day (i.e. related to a class or activity)
 - Remember close contact = within 6 feet of an individual for a prolonged period of time
 - Close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days and monitor symptoms
 - Those at low-risk will be asked monitor symptoms, but no additional follow-up needed
 - Lab-confirmed positive cases should isolate in place and:
 - Have access to a private bathroom and/or it should be cleaned after each use

- Sleep in their own room alone
- Isolate for 7 days after symptom onset and/or 3 days (72 hours) after the fever and other symptoms have subsided without fever reducing medication – whichever is longer
- For more information visit the [CDC's Caring for Yourself at Home \(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/caring-for-yourself-at-home.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/caring-for-yourself-at-home.html)
- For self-diagnosed and/or clinically diagnosed cases:
 - Note: MDH testing has been restricted to those hospitalized, health care workers and those living in congregate settings like long-term care facilities
 - More patients will not have a lab test to support their diagnosis
 - If this happens there is no follow-up or case investigation done by MDH
 - We have no way to collect information on these cases
 - We recognize that you may have cases like this reported to you
 - Recommendation for home isolation is the same as above; Isolate for 7 days after symptom onset and/or 3 days (72 hours) after the fever and other symptoms have subsided without fever reducing medication – whichever is longer
 - We do not quarantine household contacts, but recommend social distancing
 - Reach out to MDH before you send a message to your school community so we can assist you in the notification process using the school email address: health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us
 - We will may not know about a case like this until you notify us
- Maintain regular cleaning and try to be vigilant with symptom monitoring upon entrance to the building
- If you hear of a case pay attention to the source of information and try to get in touch directly with that source
- Consider not sending out notification until you have had contact with the source and with MDH

Erika Yoney, Presenter: Testing Guidance Updates

- Minnesota testing process is delayed due to national test kit shortages
- Prioritizing those hospitalized, health care workers and those in congregate settings like long-term care facilities
- Remember 80% of cases are mild and in most cases the recommendation for self-quarantine should be followed – Isolate for 7 days after symptom onset and/or 3 days

- (72 hours) after the fever and other symptoms have subsided without fever reducing medication – whichever is longer
- We will be expanding tools in place related to social distancing: [Schools and Childcare COVID-19 Information](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>)
 - Inquiries related to screening to for emergency child care students:
 - Your staffing may look different when it comes to screening measures
 - Families should check temps before drop-off and if you notice respiratory symptoms
 - If you are able to provide screening onsite, meet families at door to check temperature and ask about any respiratory symptoms over the past 14 days with parent present
 - If symptoms exist, they should return home with their parent
 - We recommended repeat temperature checks throughout the day if possible
 - CDC has updated their school guidance: [CDC Guidance on COVID-19 for Schools](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>)
 - Follow CDC and EPA guidance related to cleaning and continue to frequently clean high touch areas and surfaces and spaces where an identified case may have been
 - Follow CDC guidance related to travel
 - There has been some evidence that people have the ability to be infectious without symptoms/asymptomatic
 - Most infection lives in droplets from coughing/sneezing
 - If person is not coughing and sneezing and you are practicing good infection control, you can curb risk
 - Stay home if you are sick
 - If someone reports they are sick, be flexible and allow them to stay home and evaluate as needed
 - Household contacts do not need to be quarantined, but we are recommending home isolation if possible
 - Infection on surfaces:
 - Can sit on surfaces, but it is not the main way we are seeing it spread
 - As long as people wash their hands and are not laying their head on high touch surfaces risk is low
 - As long as buildings are in use at any level, cleaning should continue.
 - Put up COVID-19 messaging and demonstrate to the community that we are taking things seriously and let them know what they can do to keep everyone safe. [MDH](#)

COVID-19 Information for Schools

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>)

Wendy Hatch, Presenter: MDE Update

- Guidance documents on the MDE website will be updated daily:
 - MDE COVID-19 information and resources
(<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/index.htm>)
- 2. Sign-up for email alerts when updated information is posted:
 - MDE COVID-19 email updates
(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNMDE_1704)
- 3. MDE will notify you about check-ins moving forward for superintendents and charter school leaders
- 4. MDH will notify you about school nurse check-ins moving forward

For more information, please contact:

MDE for Educational Questions Email: covid-19.questions.mde@state.mn.us and MDE Hotline: 651-297-1304

MDH for Public Health Questions Email: Health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us