

Positive COVID-19 Results? What does this mean for contact tracing?

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, or is a close contact of someone else who does, please **immediately** let Nurse Beth Gatzow know in the following way(s) that work best for you:

- **262-367-2000 ext 120 - Office**
- **262-361-3725 - Google Voice**
- **nurse@swallowschool.org**

Having this information in real time, **even if it is a night or weekend**, makes a huge difference in a timely school response.

Nurse Beth has been designated as a **contact tracer for your child by the Waukesha County Health Department**. A close contact is someone with whom there has been a **CUMULATIVE of 15 minutes of time spent within 6 feet within each 24 hour period**. Therefore only considering time spent in school does not provide a true picture of close contacts and can lead to more disease spread. When you contact her, please be ready to share:

- The **time and day** of symptom onset.
- Who, outside of your family, has your child been in contact with during the **48 hours prior** to symptom onset?
 - Did your child ride the **bus, walk**, or were they **driven** to school?
 - Were they a **part of any** sleepovers, play dates, car pools, sports, or other activities?

Once Nurse Beth has this information, next steps taken depending on the situation may include:

- **Contact made with teachers** if needed to verify cohorts, any uniquenesses to the school day(s) in question, and determination of any close contacts that are school-based;
- **Transportation information review** to look at bus schedules to determine how long the child would have been on the bus (and get camera footage if necessary from bus company to determine close contacts on bus if at or over 15 minutes);
- If possible and visible, review camera footage to see if there are **non-cohort close contacts** from recess or lunch;
- Nurse Beth then finalizes the **close contact list** and works with the County Health Department liaison to issue quarantine letters OR get input in less clear-cut circumstances;
- Nurse Beth provides **confidential timely notification** of other families whose children need to quarantine so they do not come to school only to be sent home--**your family's information IS NOT provided** to others, simply a statement that their *'child has been established as a close contact to someone in the Swallow community who has tested positive for COVID-19'* and their dates of quarantine;
- Nurse Beth lets teachers know so that your child can **transition to virtual learning** and their return to school date.

Per the Waukesha County Health Department, **15 minutes is a guideline** and not an exact amount of time for exposure as a close contact. Swallow will take all information shared into account and **consult with the Waukesha County Health Department as-needed** in cases which are not clear-cut. School notification and the letter provided by Nurse Beth is now **the ONLY notification for quarantine** due to Waukesha County Health Department procedural changes as of November 5, 2020.

We know this is stressful and challenging and appreciate everyone's help in keeping the school as safe as possible to stay open. [Click here for the COVID Symptom Tracker.](#)