



# Grand Ridge Grade School

## NEWSLETTER

Week of Jan. 10 - 16, 2021

400 W. Main Street  
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

Ted Sanders, Supt. — Terry Ahearn, Principal  
"Large enough to educate you, small enough to know you."

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### A Few Words from Mr. Sanders . . .

*"One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words."—*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Welcome back everyone! The students have all been excited to get back to learning, as surprising as that may seem. With COVID and closures and all the rest, having a sense of normalcy is a nice retreat from the rest of the day. Teachers have been busy getting everyone back into the routine and we have been steadily moving forward to start the New Year, 2021.

#### **COVID Team Meeting:**

At our team meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>, it was suggested that we continue forward with the hybrid plan indefinitely. We know that parents are trying to make decisions about daycare and other items, so we want you to be informed. We do not have any more information than you do about how COVID will manifest itself in the future. Keep planning on at least hybrid ½ day in-person learning 5 days per week. If there is an opportunity for us to come back to school longer, we will notify you as quickly as possible. For the time-being though, we recommend that people continue planning for hybrid learning until further notice. We will be closely monitoring our regional and local COVID numbers to inform decision making.

#### **New IDPH Guidance**

As spring break approaches, we know that some people will be taking vacations. At the present time we have included in this newsletter a copy of the newest IDPH guidelines from January 4<sup>th</sup>. We do not have mandatory quarantines unless a person has left the country. If you leave the country that individual would have to quarantine a minimum of 14 days when he/she returns. All other trips within the country are fine. However, as always, if you develop symptoms or were exposed to someone who was diagnosed with COVID, you will have to quarantine as per the guidelines. We must allow the Health Department to make decisions on when or if it is appropriate to return to school. It is still recommended that if you develop symptoms you should visit a health care provider to help them ascertain the situation and whether or not you should be tested. Please see the attached guidance document for more.

In closing, we are all getting tired of dealing with the constant pressures of lockdowns, restaurant closures, sporting event cancelations, and many other things. We begin to realize how much we miss being so busy and having freedom to move about. With all the tensions in the world there is no better time than now to reconnect with what is most important in your families. Continue to build good relationships and positive memories by playing games, having dinner together, reading a book together, or just veg'ing out by the TV. Try to practice healthy eating habits, sleeping habits, and exercise when you can. All of these things can help to reduce stress and make you healthier in the process. We wish everyone the best as we work together through the weeks ahead.

**Have A Great Week!!!!**

# CASEY'S CASH for CLASSROOMS

Cash for Classrooms, part of Casey's Rewards, supports teachers through cash donations to schools for the things they need most. Members can turn their points into a Cash for Classrooms donation that is directed specifically to the school of their choice.

Casey's Rewards members can search our database of more than 35,000 schools across the 16 states that Casey's calls home.

Get started today by signing up for Casey's Rewards and selecting the school you'd like to support!

To learn more about the ways Casey's supports K-12 schools, visit [www.caseys.com/community](http://www.caseys.com/community).

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# Calendar of Events

Mon. Jan. 11 - 11:50 Dismissal

Tues. Jan. 12 - 11:50 Dismissal

Wed. Jan. 13 - 11:50 Dismissal

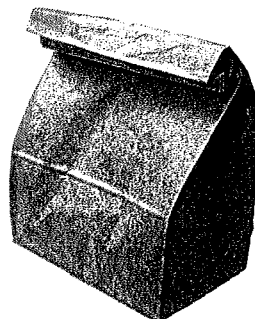
Thurs. Jan. 14 - 11:50 Dismissal

Fri. Jan. 15 - 11:50 Dismissal  
Report Cards

## Special Birthdays

Jan 10	Jan. 11 Ava Egan	Jan. 12	Jan. 13	Jan. 14	Jan. 15	Jan 16 Annika Michlik

## Breakfast & Lunch Menu



Even though you will be pre-ordering free lunches each week, that menu will be subject to change. Therefore we ask you to simply sign up if you want lunches to be provided for the week.

Thanks!

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2
3	4 11:50 Dismissal	5 11:50 Dismissal	6 11:50 Dismissal	7 11:50 Dismissal	8 11:50 Dismissal	9
	<i>School Resumes</i>		<i>PTO Meeting 6p</i>		<i>End of Quarter</i>	
10	11 11:50 Dismissal	12 11:50 Dismissal	13 11:50 Dismissal	14 11:50 Dismissal	15 11:50 Dismissal	16
					<i>Report Cards</i>	
17	18 <b>No School</b> <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19 11:50 Dismissal	20 11:50 Dismissal	21 11:50 Dismissal	22 11:50 Dismissal	23
		<i>School Board Mtg 7p</i>	<i>SHS 8th Gr. Schedule 9a Booster Club Meeting</i>			
24	25 11:50 Dismissal	26 11:50 Dismissal	27 11:50 Dismissal	28 11:50 Dismissal	29 11:50 Dismissal	30
31						

# COVID-19 INTERIM EXCLUSION GUIDANCE<sup>1</sup>

## Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs



Send home or deny entry (and provide remote instruction) if **ANY** of the following symptoms<sup>2</sup> are present: Fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain from unknown cause, new congestion/runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches.

**Medical Evaluation and Testing are Strongly Recommended for ALL Persons with COVID-Like Symptoms.**

Status	Evaluated by Healthcare Provider	Return to School Guidance	Quarantine for Close Contacts?	Documentation Required to Return to School
<b>A. COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-like symptoms without COVID-19 testing and exposed to confirmed case (probable case)</b>	YES / NO	Stay home at least ten <sup>3</sup> calendar days from onset of symptoms <b>AND</b> for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) <b>AND</b> improvement of symptoms.	YES	Release from isolation letter (if received from their LHD) provided by the parent/guardian or staff person, notification via phone, secure email or fax from the LHD to the school, OR other process implemented by your LHD
<b>B. Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test</b> Negative COVID-19 diagnostic tests are valid only for the date on which they are collected; specimens collected 48 hours prior to symptom onset, after symptom onset, or while symptoms are present are acceptable for determining school exclusion status.	YES / NO	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. <sup>4</sup> Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools.	NO	If staff/student is a close contact to a confirmed case, the school is experiencing an outbreak, or the LHD is requiring validation due to community transmission levels, documentation of a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test result is needed. In other situations, a negative RT-PCR, rapid molecular (rapid PCR) or negative antigen test is acceptable.
<b>C. Symptomatic individual with an alternative diagnosis without a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test</b>	YES	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition. <sup>4</sup> Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools.	NO	If testing is not performed due to the clinical judgment of the healthcare provider, a medical note is needed to return to school/day care documenting that there is no clinical suspicion for COVID-19 infection and indicate an alternative diagnosis with exclusion consistent with this diagnosis
<b>D. Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing or clinical evaluation</b> Individuals may move to Columns A, B, or C based on results of diagnostic testing and/or clinical evaluation.	NO	Stay home at least ten <sup>3</sup> calendar days from onset of symptoms <b>AND</b> for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) <b>AND</b> improvement of symptoms.	Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent) <sup>5</sup>	After the ten-day exclusion, a note from parent/guardian documenting that the ill student and/or household contacts are afebrile without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved
<b>E. Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact<sup>6</sup> to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case</b>	NO	Stay home for 7-14 calendar days <sup>7,8</sup> after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. Local health departments must authorize early release from quarantine. If COVID-19 illness develops, use the ten-day isolation period <sup>8</sup> guidance for a COVID-19 case from the onset date. Testing is recommended.	NA	Release from Quarantine letter (if received from their LHD) and negative PCR lab result if applicable <sup>7,8</sup> provided by the parent/guardian or staff member. LHD notification via phone, secure email or fax to the school OR other process implemented by your LHD

1 Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department. This chart should be used in conjunction with the Public Health Interim Guidance for Pre-K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs for Addressing COVID-19.

2 New onset of a symptom not attributed to allergies or a pre-existing condition.

3 Severely immunocompromised or severely ill; may need to isolate for 20 days as per guidance from the individual's infectious disease physician.

4 If the individual has been identified by public health for quarantine or knows they are a close contact to a case, the quarantine period must be completed.

5 Consider quarantine for other close contacts if there was poor adherence to social distancing or use of face coverings.

6 Contacts to close contacts of a case do not need to be excluded unless the close contact becomes a confirmed or probable case.

7 Quarantine options: Complete a 14 days, OR b. 10 days with no symptoms, OR c. For ADULT STAFF ONLY: 7 days with no symptoms and a negative SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test. Specimen for testing must be obtained within 48 hours of Day 7. Last exposure date = Day 0. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

8 Molecular testing (PCR) is recommended for individuals ending quarantine at Day 10 after exposure; may be required by LHD.

Rev. 1/4/2021 Interim Guidance, Subject to updates

## Box A. Assessment of Symptomatic Persons

Consider the following when assessing symptomatic students/staff:

Are symptoms new to the student/staff person or are they a change in baseline for that individual?

Does the symptomatic individual have any of the following potential exposure risks?

Did the student/staff have an exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?

Is there a household or other close contact with similar symptoms who has not been yet classified as a confirmed or probable case?

Is there a household member or other close contact with high-exposure risk occupation or activities (e.g. HCW, correctional worker, other congregate living setting worker or visitor)?

Did the student/staff member have potential exposure due to out-of-school activities (private parties, playing with friend groups, etc.) or have poor compliance with mask wearing and social distancing?

Do they live in an area of moderate or high community transmission? (as defined in the [Adaptive Pause Metrics guidance](#)<sup>1</sup>)

Do they have a history of travel to an area of high transmission in previous 14 days?

Is there an outbreak in the school or has there been another known case of COVID-19 in the school building in the last 14 days or are there other students or staff in the classroom or cohort currently out with COVID-19 symptoms?

## Box B. Clinical Evaluation for Children with Symptoms of COVID-19

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>)

Consider the individual's risk of exposure. See Box A.

No Exposure Risk Identified & resides in County with Minimal County Transmission<sup>1</sup>

Has Exposure Risk and/or Clinical Suspicion for COVID-19

Isolation  
COVID-19 Testing Recommended

If no known close contact to COVID-19 case and no other exposure risks, testing and exclusion for COVID-19 may be considered based on level of clinical suspicion and testing availability.

Alternate diagnoses should be considered, and exclusions based on usual practice. (Isolate until at least 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicine)

**TESTING**  
PCR or antigen (Ag) testing is acceptable.

- If an Ag detection test is negative and there is a high clinical suspicion of COVID-19, confirm with PCR) (see Column B, pg. 1), ideally within 2 days of the initial Ag test.
- If RT-PCR testing is not available, clinical discretion can be used to recommend isolation.

Test result is only valid for the day of specimen collection.

<sup>1</sup> Adaptive Pause and Metrics: Interim School Guidance for Local Health Departments. Available at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDDPH-Adaptive-Pause-Metrics.pdf> and CDC Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

**Resources:**

- COVID-19 Testing Overview <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>
- Isolation and Quarantine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>