



Grand Ridge Grade

NEWSLETTER

Week of October 18 - 24, 2020

400 W. Main Street
Grand Ridge, IL 61325

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

Phone: 815-249-6225
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A Few Words from the Superintendent

"The scene changes, but the aspirations of men of good will persist."

--Vannevar Bush, "Modern Arms and Free Men"(1949)

Today is October 16th and as the writer is compiling his thoughts, the temperatures have reached a very chilly 53 degrees. Normally we can expect to be in the 70's or upper 60's, but we are obviously experiencing a little cold snap to prepare us for what is to come. With that being said, please remember to send your children to school appropriately dressed for the weather. As the temperatures drop, we will still try to provide a mask break outside in order to give them a little break from the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Every little bit helps. For this to be available to us, we need your help in dressing your children appropriately each day.

With all the regulations we are following it is more and more necessary to work together to protect the health and safety of our children and our school staff. Included in your newsletter today are the newly revised guidelines as of October 13th from the IDPH. To summarize, most parts have remained the same, however, they have been more specific on the COVID testing that must be performed and the timelines associated with that process. If you or your child are tested 48 hours prior to symptom onset, the test will not be counted. In other words, you would have to get another test, specifically an RT-PCR test (please see the included document for more details). The previous timelines appear to be the same at the time of writing. We will keep you up to date as we learn more.

Another issue included in this newsletter has to do with the approaching Holiday season. IDPH has given some suggestions about what you and your families might do to help this year. If you have been watching the news and following Dr. Fauci from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), you will already know that he is warning against large family gatherings. Regardless of how we all feel about these guidelines (and I will tell you it is very difficult for me to swallow as well), it is important that you remember to take precautions. What you do in your own homes is up to you.....as it should be. Our community has done such a fantastic job so far of being open and honest about symptoms, keeping children and siblings home if they develop symptoms, and informing the school if there are issues we need to be aware of. We are very thankful for that honesty, and we need you to please continue that in order for us to continue to provide the services we can offer. No one wants to go backwards on this, forcing us to limit time with our students. Thank you for all you are doing.....hang in there and don't get *COVID Fatigue*. We are all doing a fantastic job of working together through this pandemic.

Finally, you will find a letter regarding Free Lunches for All, an extension of the USDA lunch program for all schools nationwide. What this means is that for the remainder of the school year, all children will eat lunch and breakfast for free at school. Since we service students in pre-K to 8th grade, if you have children age 3 or older enrolled in our district, you will get lunches and breakfasts for free. Students only need to tell their teachers at the beginning of each day and we will make them up to take home. We are currently doing sack lunches to-go. Breakfast is served daily at the school before classes begin at 8:30am. If you had already paid for breakfast or lunch, we will credit your account for the time being, and once we have the Teacher Ease system updated, we can at your request either continue to credit your account, or we will refund what you are owed. Please contact the office with any other questions.

Have A Great Week!!!!



MOHAWKS

Grand Ridge Community Consolidated School, District 95
400 West Main • Grand Ridge, IL 61325-9687
Phone: 815-249-6225 • Fax: 815-249-5049
www.grgs95.org

Ted N. Sanders, Superintendent
Terry Ahearn, Principal

Date: 10/14/2020

Re: Remote Learning

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the first quarter draws to a close, we are evaluating our needs for the second quarter regarding remote learning. **If you are planning to have your student(s) remote learn for the second quarter, please sign and return this slip to the office by Wednesday, October 23rd.** If your student(s) is currently in-person learning, you do not need to respond. **Only return this slip if you plan for remote learning during the second quarter from October 26, 2020 through January 8th, 2021.**

Yours in Education,

Ted N. Sanders

Superintendent

Grand Ridge District 95

My student(s) will be remote learning due to COVID-19 concerns for the second quarter beginning October 26, 2020 through January 8, 2021.

Signature

Date

(Please return to the office no later than Wednesday, Oct. 21st.)



MOHAWKS

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Ted N. Sanders, Superintendent
Terry Ahearn, Principal

Date: 10/15/2020

Re: USDA Extends Free Meals

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wanted to take a moment to make all of you aware that the USDA and ISBE have extended the free meal benefit to all students. What this means to all of you is that all breakfast and lunches will be free to the end of the school year. This is retroactive to September 1st. If you were charged for any meals from September 1st to now, they will be credited on your school account. This process will take some time, as we will need to work with Teacherease to reverse these charges. Once that has been completed, the office will reach out to you to see if you want a refund or to roll the money on the account over for next year.

If your student is doing remote learning, they are eligible to participate in this program; you would need to contact the office each day to sign up for lunch. The sack lunch will be placed in the lobby for you to pick up each day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Yours in Education,

Ted N. Sanders

Superintendent

Grand Ridge District 95

COVID-19 INTERIM EXCLUSION GUIDANCE¹

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 symptoms² 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	A: COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-like symptoms without COVID-19 testing and exposed to confirmed case (probable case)	B: Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test Negative COVID-19 diagnostic tests are valid only for the date they are collected; specimens collected more than 48 hours prior to symptom onset are not counted for determining school exclusion status.	C: Symptomatic individual with an alternative diagnosis without negative COVID-19 diagnostic test	D: Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing or clinical evaluation Individuals may move to Columns A, B, or C based on results of diagnostic testing and/or clinical evaluation.	E: Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case
Evaluated by Healthcare Provider	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES	NO	NA
Return to School Guidance	Stay home at least ten ³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition ⁴ . Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools.	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition ⁴ . Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools.	Stay home at least ten ³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	Stay home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. If COVID-19 illness develops, use the ten-day isolation period ³ guidance for a COVID-19 case from the onset date. Testing is recommended.
Quarantine for Close Contacts?	YES	NO	NO	Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent) ⁵	NA
Documentation Required to Return to School	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 school, OR other process implemented by your LHD	Negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test result OR healthcare provider's note indicating the negative RT-PCR test result	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	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	Release from Quarantine letter (if received from their LHD) 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 Programs¹ 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 14-calendar-day quarantine 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.

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)¹

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 Transmission¹

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)

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

Isolation
COVID-19 Testing Recommended

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, 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.

¹ Adaptive Pause and Metrics: Interim School Guidance for Local Health Departments. Available at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-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: CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>



Published on IDPH (<https://www.dph.illinois.gov>)

IDPH Issues COVID-19 Holiday Season Safety Tips [1]

14th Oct, 2020

Plan ahead for the holidays and consider alternatives

SPRINGFIELD – As Illinoisans prepare to spend the holidays with family and friends, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is offering recommendations on how to celebrate safer during the COVID-19 pandemic. During a time when social distancing and limiting the number of people at gatherings is important, special considerations should be taken.

“COVID-19 has changed the way we work, live, and play, and will now change how we plan to celebrate the holidays,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “While the safest way to celebrate is with members of your household and connecting with others virtually, we know, for many, the holidays are all about family and friends, so we want to provide some tips on how to celebrate safer.”

Traveling increases the chance of spreading COVID-19. When planning travel, consider the mode of transportation. Traveling by plane, train, or bus can mean standing in lines and sitting less than 6 feet from people for long periods of time. Traveling by car may include stops along the way for gas, food, and bathroom break. Decrease your risk by consistently wearing face coverings during travel.

If you are hosting a holiday gathering, limit the number of guests and try to have as many activities outside as weather permits. If your gathering needs to be inside, try to increase air flow by partially opening a couple windows. Please prepare yourself and your guests to wear masks indoors when not eating and drinking.

Limit your activities in the two weeks before your gathering and ask your guests to do the same. This will decrease the risk of exposure to the virus and further spread.

Try to do gift shopping online by looking at local store websites and choosing pick-up options. Grocery shopping online with delivery and curbside pick-up is also available in many locations. If you need to shop in-person, try to go at a time when stores are not as busy.

Think about the seating arrangements if you are planning a meal. Keep members of the same household together and try to put space between one family and another.

When serving food, avoid a buffet-style or potluck setting and consider having one person serve all the food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils. Also try to limit the number of people going in and out of areas where food is being prepared – like the kitchen and dining room.

If you are sick, do not travel and do not attend gatherings and celebrations. Even if your symptoms are mild, you may still be able to infect others, and no one wants the gift of sickness this season.

To help stave off illness, get your flu vaccine now. It takes the body several weeks after receiving the vaccine to build up antibodies that will help protect you from flu, so get it now to help protect you and others during the holidays. Roll your [#SleeveUp](#) [2] and get your flu shot.

For more holiday safety tips, go to the IDPH website under [guidance](#) [3].

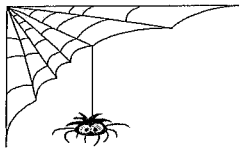
Source URL: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/idph-issues-covid-19-holiday-season-safety-tips>

Links

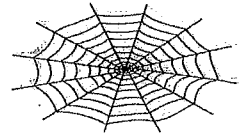
[1] <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/idph-issues-covid-19-holiday-season-safety-tips>

[2] <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sleeveup>

[3] <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/holiday-season-safety-tips>



Calendar of Events



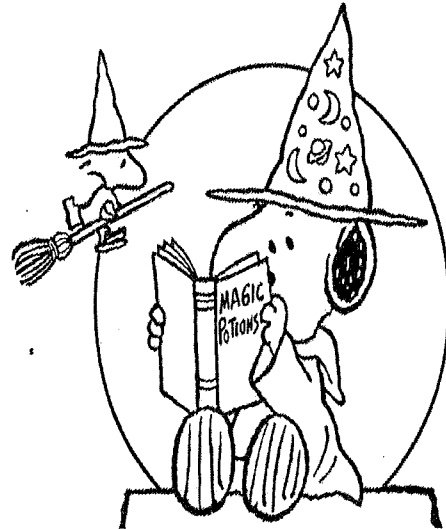
Mon. Oct. 19 - 11:50 Dismissal

Tues. Oct., 20 - 11:50 Dismissal

Wed. Oct. 21 - 11:50 Dismissal
Booster Club Meeting

Thur. Oct. 22 - 11:50 Dismissal

Fri. Oct. 23 - 11:50 Dismissal
End of Quarter



Special Birthdays

Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20 Everett Groesch	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23 Graysan Miller	Oct. 24
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PLEASE NOTE: MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH AVAILABILITY

Breakfast & Lunch Menu

	Monday Oct. 19	Tuesday Oct. 20	Wednesday Oct. 21	Thursday Oct. 22	Friday Oct. 23
Breakfast Menu	Cereal Bar Yogurt Fruit Juice	Cereal Honey Bunny Fruit Juice	Cereal Pop Tart Fruit Juice	Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Juice	Cereal Yogurt Fruit Juice
Lunch Menu	Uncrustable PB&J Cheese Stick Carrots w/ Ranch Fruit Fritos Milk	Chicken Tender Wrap Lettuce & Cheese Cup Fruit Pudding Milk	Sub of the Day Mohawk Sub Broccoli w/ Ranch Fruit Cheetos Milk	Uncrustable PB&J Celery w/ PB Fruit Sun Chips Milk	Ham & Cheese Croissant Vegetable Juice Chips & Salsa Fruit Milk

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 Election Day NO SCHOOL	4 11:50 DISMISSAL PTO Meeting 6pm	5	6	7
8	9 8:45 a.m. SHS 8th Grade Testing	10 7p School Board Meeting	11 11:50 DISMISSAL Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 11:50 Dismissal Booster Club Mtg	19	20	21
22	23	24 Midterm Grades	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30					

