

## Respiratory Illness (COVID-19/Influenza/RSV) Response Plan 2023-24 School Year

Hayfield Community Schools will continue to follow directions from public health authorities when it relates to contagious illnesses. Respiratory infections such as COVID-19, Influenza (and Influenza-like Illnesses), and RSV impact our schools due to illness absences of students and staff. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently (March 1, 2024) [updated their isolation directions](#) for those with COVID-19 to align with other respiratory illnesses.

### **If your student in grades K-12 tests positive for COVID-19, influenza, or RSV, OR has symptoms of influenza-like-illness (ILI) or gastrointestinal illness:**

- Parents/guardians should report the COVID-19, influenza, ILI, etc., case to their **school**, just as they would any other illness. (Please state the illness for our tracking purposes.)
- **Students and staff should stay home when they are sick.**
  - They can return when they are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND symptoms have improved. (\*See below for definition)
  - It is recommended that students and staff wear a mask for 5 days following these illnesses, especially if they will be near people who are susceptible to severe illness.
- Parents/guardians/staff may still consult the District Licensed School Nurse, Michele Nelson, RN, if they have questions or need advice regarding returning to school. [nelsomi@hayfield.k12.mn.us](mailto:nelsomi@hayfield.k12.mn.us)
- The nurse will not routinely be following up with each case of COVID-19.
- The Minnesota Department of Health has stated that they will continue to make at-home COVID-19 test kits available to schools through the end of this school year, so parents/guardians/staff can still access these by contacting health services.
  - Health Office: 507-671-1558
  - Michele Nelson, RN, LSN: [nelsomi@hayfield.k12.mn.us](mailto:nelsomi@hayfield.k12.mn.us)

We are required to report to MDH when/if 10% of our students (in one school) are absent due to [COVID-19](#), [influenza](#), [influenza-like-illness \(ILI\)](#), [RSV](#), or [gastrointestinal illness](#) (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).

We cannot know how COVID-19 will change in the future. Large outbreaks of COVID-19 or influenza could result in further communication or changes in our communicable diseases plan.

Questions can be directed to Michele Nelson RN, LSN  
[nelsomi@hayfield.k12.mn.us](mailto:nelsomi@hayfield.k12.mn.us)

\*Symptoms Improved: A person feels well and is able to return to normal activities. Any lingering symptoms such as a cough or runny nose should be mild or infrequent.