



## Fond du Lac County Health Department Environmental Health Program

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**Public Health**  
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**Fond du Lac County  
Health Department**

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### Recorded message to schools from Health Officer, 8/18/2020

Hello, my name is Kim Mueller; I am the Health Officer for Fond du Lac County. I wanted to share a message with all of you regarding the highly anticipated beginning of the school year.

Your school or district, and a team from the Health Department have been spending a great deal of time discussing and creating plans on how to reopen your schools as safely as possible during a pandemic. These plans are fluid and will change with the status of the virus in our county, and specifically how it is affecting your school or district. The Health Department and your school will work collaboratively using local data, state guidance from DHS, and DPI.

As you prepare for the first day of school, please keep in mind that we will not be able to prevent COVID-19 from entering our schools. With your school plans in place, we will be ready to help stop the spread. These plans include models of learnings such as traditional face to face, hybrid, and e-learning also mitigation strategies such as: use of social distancing when feasible, wearing face coverings, practicing good hand hygiene, and staying home when you are ill.

You all play a crucial role in preventing and lessening the spread of the virus. Because we know the physical school day is one piece to what makes up your day and your week as a whole, we encourage all activities outside of the school day to be limited, to help lessen the risk of transmission in your home and school. What you choose to do on your own time, can and will affect what we see in our school setting. Please keep this in mind.

We recognize and have considered the full spectrum of benefits and risks of both in-person and virtual learning options. Parents, staff and students are understandably concerned about the virus and returning to school. However, with the plans schools have in place, our schools will be a safer place for our kids than many other gatherings that do not have plans in place. I want to assure you that the Health Department is feeling confident with our resources we have provided our schools and the capacity we have to respond to COVID-19 in our county.

With so many children and families experiencing additional economic hardships, social isolation, and other stressors, our schools are a critical piece of our communities and have an impact on the health, well-being, growth, and development of students and families. It is the consensus of our team that reopening of school is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Together we can all do our part to support our schools, students, families and each other.

Thank you.