

# COVID-19

Safely navigating the pandemic at Northwestern Local Schools



# What we know about the virus

- It is a virus. Antibiotics are ineffective unless there is a secondary bacterial infection
- It has a lipid layer that makes it vulnerable to soap and rubbing alcohol
- Latest research shows it does not live long outside the human body
- This virus is extremely contagious: no immunity, no vaccine
- It is 1 of 7 coronaviruses that infect humans
- Most recover (in US 96.7% )
- Last year, 24,000-62,000 died from flu in US (not reportable)
- As of August 12, 162,407 have died from COVID
- There are currently no drugs licensed for the treatment of COVID
- Pneumonia vaccine has no effect, but all recommended vaccines should be UTD.
- Children generally have milder or sometimes asymptomatic illness.



# TRANSMISSION

- **Mostly from person to person**
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when infected person sneezes, coughs, or talks
  - Usually transmitted when in close proximity to infected person (6ft)
  - Respiratory droplets can land in the nose, mouth, or eyes, and can also be inhaled directly into the lungs of non-infected person
  - Airborne droplets containing the virus can survive for 3 hours.
  - People who are infected may be asymptomatic but can still transmit the virus
- **Fomite transmission (through objects)**
  - Not enough research to determine if this is viable method of transmission
  - Survival times on various substances
    - Stainless Steel: up to 72 hours
    - Plastic: up to 72 hours
    - Cardboard: up to 24 hours
    - Glass (including cell phone screens): up to 4 days depending on temperature of surface
    - Wood: up to 4 days
    - Paper: varies between a few minutes to 5 days

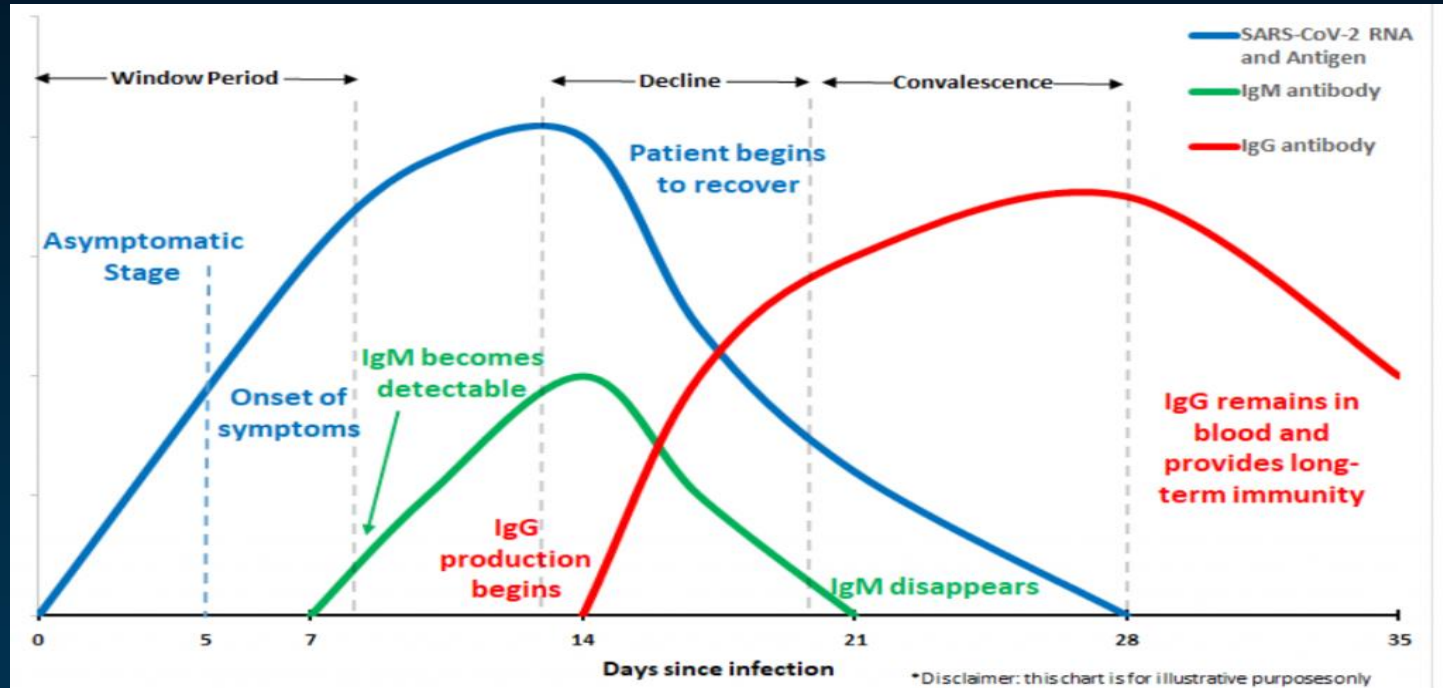
A microscopic image showing numerous coronavirus particles, which are spherical with a distinct outer lipid layer and a network of spike proteins protruding from the surface. The particles are illuminated against a dark background, highlighting their characteristic structure.

# Mitigating Transmission

- Wear a mask (staff and students); refrain from touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Continue to cough/sneeze in your sleeve even with mask on.
- Wash hands often (preferably with gel-based soap instead of foam or bar soap). Soap destroys the lipid layer surrounding the coronavirus.
- If unable to wash hands, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 62% alcohol. Rub into hands UNTIL DRY. Rubbing alcohol also destroys the lipid layer surrounding the coronavirus.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day (desks, countertops, doorknobs, keyboards, hands on learning items, faucet handles, toys, CELL PHONES )
- Ventilation is important
- Limit sharing or disinfect between sharing
- Maintain social distancing



# Timeline of infection



A microscopic image showing numerous virus particles, which appear as small, spherical structures with a textured surface, radiating from a central point. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Disinfection Procedure

## Spray, Wipe, Spray Method

- Spray disinfectant and wipe clean
- Spray again and either let dry if at the end of the day or wipe off for disinfection

## Wipe, Discard, Wipe Method

- Wipe once to clean surface
- Wipe with a second clean wipe for disinfection



# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

## Gloves

- Does NOT take the place of hand washing
- Can cause cross contamination if not used properly
- Proper removal

## Masks

- Do not touch front of mask
- Wash at the end of the day
- Proper placement
- Proper removal

## Face Shield

- Purpose
- Must be cleaned at end of day or when visibly dirty
- Most medical professionals wear both face shield and mask
- Proper removal

A microscopic view of virus particles, showing a central cluster of spherical particles with a textured surface, surrounded by numerous elongated, rod-like structures. The image is in blue and white, with a dark blue background.

# Quarantine vs. Isolation

## Quarantine

“Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] 2017, para. 1)

## Isolation

“Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] 2017, para. 1)





# Practical Suggestions

- Stop bringing your shoes from work into the house. Can keep them in a designated place. Don't walk around your house with them on.
- Change your clothes as soon as you get home. Keep dirty clothes in a designated area. Launder clothes before re-wearing.
- Get some eye protection. Wear a face shield if you have it, and label it with your name. If not, wear glasses. If you don't need them, get fake ones. Protect all mucus membranes.
- Keep sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer in your car. Wipe down your keys, ID badge, watch, and phone down. Keep as much as you can in your trunk to minimize what you bring into your house.
- Always, Always wash your hands before touching your face.



# Contact Tracing Process

1. When a student/staff member has been diagnosed a COVID-19 positive:
  - The Wayne County Health Department (WCHD), is notified of positive cases and will notify the school district as needed.
  - Parents will receive a generalized letter in the event of a COVID positive in their building.
  - The school district will cooperate with the WCHD for contact tracing, to supply names and demographic information for students/families that are identified as being at risk.
  - Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 and their contacts will be contacted by a nurse at the WCHD. The length of time for isolation is determined by the individual case/circumstances. The WCHD nurse will also provide education and resources. Follow-up is provided to the positive COVID-19 client and their contacts.
  - A nurse from the Wayne County Health Department will notify individual families that are at risk, with specific instructions.
2. The school will establish one point of contact for each building for continuity of care.
  - Communication is to happen with the point of contact and the communicable disease nurses **only** at the WCHD.  
The contact person for Northwestern is School Nurse, Sharon Bowers
3. Student health issues that are NOT diagnosed as COVID-19
  - Schools will follow their policy for ill students.
4. FERPA still applies to all COVID 19 cases or potential cases. **DO NOT DISCUSS WITH OTHER TEACHERS, STAFF, COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**



# References

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