WALWORTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Walworth County Employers
FROM: Walworth County Division of Public Health
DATE: December 18, 2020
SUBJECT: Managing COVID-19 within your facility

On October 31, 2020 Walworth County Public Health implemented Crisis Standards of Practice for positive case notification and contact tracing. At that time, we began prioritizing contacting positive cases who are age 60 and older and children who are 18 years old and younger. The large number of cases and outbreaks associated with many facilities has placed significant strain on the department's capacity. We need to further prioritize our outbreak management to focus on the most vulnerable, long-term care facilities.

Currently the health department will be unable to notify you of employees who test positive for COVID-19. We are asking that individuals that test positive for COVID-19 or have had exposure to someone that has tested positive inform their employer. We encourage you to reiterate the importance of honesty and transparency in the workplace to protect the safety and well-being of employees and our community. Should you need assistance with implementing protections or managing COVID-19 within your facility please contact us.

In order to support your business during this time, we have included a packet of guidance and additional resources you may find helpful as you respond to COVID-19 cases within your business. You can find additional resource here:

- https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/856/COVID-19
- https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/employers.htm
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html

Additionally, in early December, the CDC released allowable options to shorten quarantine for close contacts of COVID-19 who are asymptomatic, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI-DHS) approved of these options. The 14-day quarantine for individuals exposed to COVID-19 is still the safest practice. Per the guidance from WI-DHS, individuals who do not develop symptoms may end their quarantine after 10 days or after 7 days as long as they have had a negative test within 48 hours of the end of day 7. Individuals may still develop symptoms after 7 or 10 days. If an individual develops symptoms they should immediately isolate and contact their primary health care provider.

- View the press release at: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/120420.htm

Should you choose to allow one of these shortened quarantine options for employees returning to your business we urge you to stress the importance of symptom monitoring for the full 14 days to minimize the potential of spread within your facility. Walworth County Public Health will not be able to release individuals from quarantine, provide release from quarantine letters, or provide or verify negative test results at this time. Individuals tested at a Wisconsin National Guard or community test site can access their results via email. Individuals tested at a health care provider should work with that facility to obtain their results.

We value partnership with the businesses in our community and will continue to support your organization in any way we can. When we take care of each other, we thrive together. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns at walcoph@co.walworth.wi.us or (262) 741-3200.