



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear SLSD Families:

October 21, 2020

This communication is to let you know that we have been working on a Health Alert situation with Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) at Whitewater Valley Elementary School. We were notified that a student at Whitewater Valley Elementary School tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Currently, district-wide, we have three elementary students and one high school student who are positive cases, out of 3,400 face-to-face students. We have one classified staff member who is a positive case, out of 385 total staff members, along with two outside contractors. Due to federal privacy laws, we are not permitted to provide the name of the student who tested positive, or the names of those students or staff who may need to quarantine.

We immediately began our protocol processes of contact tracing with HCPH and are following up with all safety and sanitization recommendations. "Close contacts" (those people within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes, within a 48-hour time frame of symptom display) have been notified by our Administrative Team. All families have been notified if your student was a close contact.

Here are the steps we need you to take to protect our school community:

- Please monitor your student for symptoms of COVID-19, which may include cough, shortness of breath, new smell disorder, or new taste disorder. Other symptoms include fever (measured or subjective), shivering with chills, body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose.
- If your child develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please keep your child at home and consult with your physician regarding next steps.

As a reminder, it is imperative that we all remain vigilant in monitoring for symptoms and continue to practice good hand-hygiene and wear masks, ensuring that masks cover both the mouth and nose. It is also important that all families / staff conduct daily health checks PRIOR to leaving for school. If you are sick or exhibiting any of the aforementioned symptoms, please stay home. If a household member is being tested, siblings should stay home until the test result comes back, in an effort to err on the side of caution and help to further reduce possible spread. It is important to note that the COVID precautions need to be practiced during activities held away from school, just as they are in school.

See the attached letter of notification from HCPH for the incident at [WHITEWATER VALLEY ELEMENTARY](#). We will also use this [FLOW CHART](#) to assist with decision-making regarding the timeline to return to school, as well as the [WEEKLY DATA UPDATE](#) to communicate our district COVID data (cases / quarantines).

Lastly – it is important we both sympathize and empathize with those that are ill, quarantined, or isolated for precautionary reasons.

John C. Hamstra
Superintendent
Southwest Local Schools

Mission: “Academic and Social growth for all students, EVERY DAY!”

Motto: “Excellence through Relationships!”

Core Values: Trust, Respect, Ownership, and Leadership