



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear SLSD Families:

October 31, 2020

SLSD Health Updates are now issued bi-weekly and will include all Health Alert situations being addressed by SLSD and Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) during the reporting period.

On October 29-31, 2020, we were notified of the following positive tests.

October 29 – Student at Whitewater Valley Elementary

October 30 – Two students at Harrison Junior School

Currently, district-wide, we have nine students who are positive cases, out of 3,400 face-to-face students. We have two teachers who are positive cases, out of 385 total staff members. Due to federal privacy laws, we are not permitted to provide the names of the individuals who tested positive, or the names of those students or staff who may need to quarantine.

After notification of each positive case, we immediately begin our protocol processes of contact tracing with HCPH and follow 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) are notified by our Administrative Team. All families have been notified if your student was a close contact of any of these cases.

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 – this includes social gatherings, youth sports, etc.** [THIS GRAPHIC](#) speaks to the ways the virus can be spread at events such as these, when COVID precautions are not followed, leading to others being affected.

We will continue to 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