Mayfield City Schools
EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

November 6, 2020

Dear Mayfield City Schools Parents and Staff,

As you know, positive COVID-19 cases, exposures and hospitalizations are on the rise across the nation, Ohio and our county.

The increases include our communities and the surrounding communities according to the physicians and health experts I talk with daily and weekly. Physicians and health officials acknowledge that the drivers of the spread are NOT schools. It is our actions in the community that are causing the increase in positive cases, hospitalizations and exposures.

Positive cases and exposures result in the required quarantining of staff. The quarantining of staff is either done by the school district (then reported to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) and on our website) or directly by the CCBH because of identified exposures and cases not found by the school district (i.e. someone is exposed at a gathering outside of school).

I want to be clear. The current increases in positive cases and exposures resulting in quarantines is quickly diminishing our ability to keep classrooms, programs, grade levels, teams and buildings open because of the number of staff that will have to be at home quarantined.

It is possible that I will direct a classroom(s), a program(s), a grade level(s), a team(s) or a building(s) to a full remote-learning model for a period of time very soon if this trend continues. There will be little forewarning as to my decision because of CCBH guidelines and requirements. The timing of the notification will be similar to that of a snow day. We are awaiting the results of several cases. I expect the results to come over the weekend.

Families, we ask that you formulate your plan for a transition to full remote learning if you are in-person. I am trying to avoid a sweeping decision that requires all schools and programs to go full remote.

Currently, 70% of our students are in-person and 30% are remote district-wide. If we want to continue an in-person option of learning, it is incumbent on all of us to take the necessary steps to eliminate our exposures in the community.

The Mayfield City School District continues to work closely with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) to ensure a safe school year. Part of this planning includes the steps we take when we learn someone in our school community tests positive for COVID-19.

The district has been notified that a Mayfield High School student and a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. The cases are not connected to one another. You have already been contacted if your student was in contact with either case. The student and staff member will quarantine in accordance with the established protocols set forth by the CCBH.

As part of this public health investigation:

- The person(s) diagnosed will remain home from school until they are no longer infectious.
- The person's activities when they could have spread COVID-19 will be assessed.
- The people who were close contacts of the person with COVID-19 will be instructed to stay home from school/work for 14 days after the exposure. This is called quarantine.

Spread of COVID-19 is currently happening in our community. This is why it is so important for all students and staff to adhere to the key public health prevention strategies to reduce the chance for transmission of COVID-19, including:

- Wearing a face mask
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water
- Hand sanitizing when soap and water are not available
- Staying home when you do not feel well
- Disinfecting high-touch surfaces regularly – these include doorknobs, light switches, counters, keyboards and phones
- Not sharing food, drinks, cups and utensils
- Avoiding large gatherings of 10 or more people

To keep cases to a minimum, please check your child for symptoms before coming to school each day. Additionally, if you or your child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19:

- Review the Coronavirus Self-Checker.
- Continue to keep your child at home from school and avoid other activities around other people.
- Notify the school.
- Seek medical care and testing for COVID-19 by contacting your family health care provider.

If you have questions or want more information about COVID-19, please visit the CCBH web site at COVID-19 School Guidance or call them Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 216-201-2000.

Our school will take the following actions steps to ensure continued safe operations:

Infection Control Measures

1.   Promoting and demonstrating regular hand washing and positive hygiene behaviors and monitoring their uptake by:
      a.   Ensuring soap and safe water is available at age-appropriate hand washing stations
      b.   Encouraging frequent and thorough hand washing (at least 20 seconds)
      c.   Placing hand sanitizers in restrooms, classrooms, halls and near exits   where possible

2.   Ensuring adequate and clean restrooms

3.   Cleaning and disinfecting school buildings, classrooms, and especially water and sanitation facilities at least once a day, particularly high contact surfaces that are touched by many people (railings, lunch tables, sports equipment, door and window handles, toys, teaching and learning aids etc.)

4.   Increasing air flow and ventilation where weather permits (open windows, use air conditioning where available etc.)

5.   Posting signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices

6.   Ensuring trash is removed daily and disposed of safely

<u>Mitigation Measures</u>

1.   Social distancing practices
    a.   Cohorting students and classrooms (when we return to in person learning)
    b.   Using on-line and e-learning strategies

2.   Procedures for ill students and staff
    a.   Ensuring ill staff or students remain home
    b.   Documenting comprehensive contact lists

3.   Information sharing
    a.   Providing timely information on disease information and prevention efforts

4.   Monitor school attendance
    a.   Monitoring absenteeism patterns and alert health authorities about increases in respiratory illness

5.   Implement continuity of learning plans

Sincerely,

Keith Kelly

Keith Kelly, Superintendent