



Michael Zoerhoff
Superintendent of Schools

Office of Superintendent

Kentwood Public Schools
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November 9, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

Over the past four days, we have been notified of nine new COVID-19 positive cases at East Kentwood High School and/or the East Kentwood Freshman Campus. Five of the nine recent cases were confirmed in the past 24 hours. As always, we have worked closely with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) over the weekend and today regarding the safest course of action for our students and staff. They have made the recommendation that we close both the East Kentwood Freshman Campus and the East Kentwood 10-12 Building for the next two weeks to allow for contact tracing and deep cleaning. Therefore, all East Kentwood students in grades 9 through 12 will move to 100% remote/virtual learning from Tuesday, November 10 through Friday, November 20. Our students did a great job with their remote learning when we closed the building in October. We know that they will continue to be engaged in their learning over the next two weeks as well.

We again apologize for the hardship this puts on our students, staff, and families. We take the responsibility of student health and safety very seriously and feel this is the best course of action at this time. The recommendation from the KCHD is intended to break and eliminate cycles of transmission and keep our EK Community safe. It is important that we all continue to take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 so we can return to offering in person school for our students and families.

Please continue to monitor yourself and your children for any new symptoms that may be related to COVID-19, including fever, cough, difficulty breathing, headache, or fatigue. If you notice changes in yours or their health, please contact your medical provider immediately. The Kent County Health Department will continue its process for contact tracing and may contact you for further follow up if it is determined that you are a "close contact". If the Kent County Health Department determines that you do not qualify as a "close contact", you will not hear anything further from them. Under HIPPA Laws, we are required to protect the confidentiality of individuals, unless there is a reason to inform you of their identity.

Over the next two weeks we will continue to work closely with the Kent County Health Department to monitor school related cases and to make a decision regarding the return to in person learning. Please watch for further communication from the school district during the week of November 14-20.

As always, the safety of our students, staff and families is our first priority. Together we will get through this pandemic. If you have questions or concerns regarding COVID-19, please contact the Executive Director of Human Resources, Jamie Gordon, in the KPS Administration Offices at 616-455-4400.

Take care and stay safe,

Michael Zoerhoff

Superintendent, Kentwood Public Schools