

October 25, 2020

Dear EGRPS Families:

I am writing today to provide an update and clarification on COVID cases and protocols within our schools. We continue to collaborate with the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) in examining every positive case that involves our students and staff.

Yesterday, the high school administration was notified of three positive cases: one coach and two students. In collaboration with the KCHD, it was determined that the coach did not have any close contacts. We followed our standard procedure of notifying families of the athletes to ensure they were aware of any possible exposure.

With the student cases, we worked with the families and the KCHD in determining “close contacts” (within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes). Once the close contacts were determined, the district made personal phone calls to notify each family that their child was a close contact and to explain the process moving forward (i.e. timeline, 14 day quarantine, notification from KCHD, return date, etc.). In addition, the district sent written communication to any teams and/or individuals in classes in which one or both of the students were present.

Due to prompt notification of the positive cases to the high school administration, our district was able to conduct all the contact tracing and notify families prior to students returning on Monday morning. If you did not receive a phone call and believe your child may be a close contact, please reach out to the high school administration. As a reminder, if your child is experiencing two or more [COVID symptoms](#), a new cough, or a loss of taste or smell, they need to stay home and your child’s physician should be contacted for next steps. If your child is symptomatic and undergoing COVID testing, the entire family needs to quarantine until the test results come back negative. Thank you for your support in keeping your child home and calling the school when they are not feeling well or showing symptoms.

Each COVID-19 positive case is unique and results in different quarantining requirements and district communication protocols depending on: presence and time of symptom onset, time of testing and test results, and time of last contacts. We encourage continued diligence among our staff, students, and parents for staying home when feeling sick, wearing a mask, washing hands, and maintaining social distancing in our personal lives.

Thank you for your continued patience, support, and understanding through these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Heidi S. Kattula, Ed.D.
Superintendent