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Colleen M. Brownell, Elementary School Principal
Tricia M. Dodge, Director of Special Education
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I wanted to reach out to the CG community to give an update on what we are seeing as a District regarding COVID-19. Through our 7 positive cases and mandatory quarantines, there are a few lessons to be learned that I feel should be shared with all of you.

1. I believe that our masking, distancing, and disinfecting efforts have assisted us in the potential spread of this virus. Our students and staff have done a fantastic job following the protocols and when a symptomatic individual was in the building, we have not seen a massive spread of the virus that we have seen in other “events” around the county. We must continue to remain vigilant in our efforts to keep our schools open and keep our children in school. I know many are suffering from “COVID fatigue,” but if we stay the course, our students will reap the benefits.
 - a. Most of the cases that are occurring in the county are happening in the “secondary events.” These are the gatherings that are happening OUTSIDE of the school. School is considered a primary event because of all the regulations we need to follow. The secondary events are where many individuals are “letting their guard down” and not following the same protocols.
 - b. One major battle right now is that many individuals are asymptomatic and do not even know they are positive. This is a tough thing to manage. You almost want a show of symptoms, so you know what you are dealing with. Therefore, not letting your guard down is so important.
2. At the beginning of the school year, the guidance that was put forth by the State Health Department indicated 2 criteria for a mandatory quarantine: in the same space for more than an hour OR within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes. In September, these times were not cumulative; meaning that I could have multiple interactions with an individual if I kept it under an hour in the same space or under 10 minutes if we were closer than 6 feet. Well, that has shifted to collective times. A person now will be quarantined if they are in the same space for more than an hour or within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes **COLLECTIVELY** throughout the day.
 - a. Example 1: a high school student has 40-minute classes. If a student has 2 classes with a positive student or staff member, that would be collectively 80 minutes of exposure leading to a quarantine.
 - b. Example 2: I have only 1 class with a positive student but due to room size constraints, sit next to someone within 6 feet (even with a mask on), I would have to quarantine.
 - c. Example 3: a teaching team has a meeting after school in a conference room for an hour. They are seated more than 6 feet apart and are masked. The entire team would have to be quarantined if one of the teachers ended up testing positive because of the hour timeframe.
 - d. We are working hard to limit the need to quarantine but with these new requirements, there will be some cases that we will have no choice.
 - e. If it gets to a point where we have too many positive cases in any 1 building and there are many students/staff that would need to be quarantined, the District will choose to go 100% remote for 2 weeks. A closure will be determined by the county health department in conjunction with the District.
3. Parents, I cannot stress the need for our parents (even with high schoolers) to pre-screen your children before they head off to school. Ask them if they are suffering from any of the COVID-related symptoms and if they are, **please do not send them to school**. We would rather have them home and doing work remotely than coming to school symptomatic with the possibility of being positive with COVID. It is crucial that our students who are symptomatic stay home. Becoming symptomatic in school is out of your control but sending your child to school symptomatic is.

Canisteo-Greenwood Central School District

84 Greenwood Street, Canisteo, NY 14823
Phone: 607-698-4225 Fax: 607-698-2833

Teaching for Learning

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- a. Current symptoms are fever, chills: shortness of breath: sore throat: loss of taste or smell: headache: cough: nasal congestion: nausea, vomiting or diarrhea: fatigue: muscle or body aches.
 - b. Please encourage your child to report to the nurse if they become symptomatic while in school and ask them not to hide it. The sooner we can address the symptomatic student and get them home, the less chance we have of a potential spread if the student tests positive for COVID. We are witnessing that some are almost embarrassed that they have symptoms or test positive because of the heightened focus on the virus across the country. It is a virus that is here to stay and most of us may catch at one time or another, just like the flu. People do not get embarrassed if they get a cold or the flu, therefore they should not feel embarrassed about contracting COVID.
4. I understand that COVID has become extremely stressful for everyone. Please know that we are here to support you in any way that we can. If your student needs academic assistance, we are here to help. If your child is quarantined and needs food, we are here to help. If you as a parent need resources, we are here to help. If you or your student suffer from anxiety over what living with COVID has done to all of us, we are here to help. We are all in this together and no one should be fighting alone.
 5. Light at the End of the Tunnel? We were informed yesterday by the county health department that school districts should start discussing potential vaccination plans. It is being reported that there may be a vaccine available within the next few months. During my discussion with the county health department, I asked if the masking and distancing regulations would start to relax if individuals were getting vaccinated. The answer was "I would think so." If the vaccine is widely accepted, we could see us getting back to some normalcy where school would be open 5 days a week and activities (sports, clubs, etc.) open back up. There are many factors that are going to play into this (personal feelings, politics, etc.) but at least we are beginning to see a potential end to all of this. COVID has created what could be the longest 8 months that any of us have seen in our lifetime and many are yearning for all the regulations to end and get back to a normal life.

If you have any questions regarding anything that was discussed in the update, please feel free to reach out to me at tcrook@cgcsd.org or cgcovid@cgcsd.org.

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