

# Northeastern Local School District

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“Home of the Rams”

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Mrs. Denise Wright  
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Mr. Eric Tipton  
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Mrs. Sara Buchhop  
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February 8, 2021

Dear Families K-12:

Thank you for your continued efforts to help us mitigate the spread of COVID-19. I wanted to take the time to do a quick update with you. As Defiance County remains at a Level 3 Alert (very high exposure and spread), it is important to continue to follow the protocols we have in place. Overall, we are not seeing the virus spread in our schools, however, we have specific guidelines that have been put in place for the protection of all students and staff. It is vital that we stay vigilant in following these guidelines. We would ask that you please continue to support our efforts to keep our students, staff and community healthy.

Quarantine update:

After we returned from Christmas Break, Tinora started implementing the new quarantine guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health. I might point out that there was some confusion in the way the changes might look in the school setting versus the way it was outlined in the written guidelines. A student who is within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or greater with a mask on is still identified as a close contact and asked to quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms for 14 days following the date of their last exposure to the positive case. The exception to this quarantine would be that the student may attend school in-person, so long as he/she is not having any symptoms, avoids activities at school where he/she would be around others without a mask on (ex: lunch, P.E. class) and avoids activities that pose a risk of producing a greater number of respiratory droplets, even with a mask on (ex: band, choir). We have made adaptations at every grade level to accommodate these types of situations as they arise. With that being said we understand it is not easy to explain to a child that they must alter their day(s), so please take the time at home to help explain why it is necessary to make these temporary adaptations in the school setting which we refer to as modified quarantine. These students are still asked to quarantine

outside of the school day when they are identified as a close contact. This includes any extracurricular school activities. After the 10th day of modified quarantine the student may attend school as usual with no adaptations in his/her school days, this includes resuming extracurriculars outside of the school day, unless it is a sport where your child would not be wearing a mask. In this situation the student may attend the game or practice with a mask on and watch at a safe distance, but he/she may not fully participate until after the 14th day. Students who have been exposed to a positive case at school and were not masked at the time of exposure whether it was through a school organized extracurricular activity or during lunchtime will be identified as a close contact as well. In this circumstance the student will quarantine at home without the option to attend school in-person during the quarantine period, due to their increased risk of exposure to the virus. We call this a full-quarantine. After the 10th day, as long as the student has not had any symptoms during their quarantine period they may resume school as usual. The avoidance of full participation in sports from day 11 through day 14 will look the same whether the student was in modified quarantine or full quarantine. The student may be present and observe from a safe distance with a mask on, but will not be able to participate in the sports activity without a mask on until after the 14th day.

Another important component to keeping everyone healthy is keeping your child home when he/she is symptomatic. Below are the symptoms to keep an eye out for:

- Fever (100.4° F or above)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Cough of unknown origin
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Recent onset of loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea

Ask yourself, does your child have any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another condition (*asthma, allergies, migraines, etc.*)?

We know this is a very difficult time for the students and families, however, if we fail to follow protocols for ALL students, we run the risk of spread in the schools and community.

Thank you for your cooperation and support,

Carol Hesterman, RN  
School Nurse