

South Lewis Central School District

Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent

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September 17, 2021

Dear South Lewis School Community:

As part of our 2021-22 school year protocols and procedures, we intend to give period updates to our school community regarding COVID+ cases and other relevant information related to the on-going pandemic. It is our intention to be transparent and informative in our communications.

As of the end of the day on Thursday, September 16th we have had four COVID+ cases connected to the school district. This includes two staff members and two students. These COVID+ cases have resulted in approximately 40 close contact exposures identified, requiring mandatory quarantine by Lewis County Public Health. Of these 40 close contacts, approximately ten were vaccinated which exempted them from quarantine.

Unfortunately, our current masking policy allowing students to remove masks once seated in classrooms will result in a large number of exposures and mandatory quarantines. Per NYSDOH guidelines, anyone unmasked must be quarantined if they are less than 6-feet for more than 15-minutes to someone who has tested COVID+. If both parties are masked, this distance is reduced to 3-feet. With all students back on campus each day, we are able to maintain 3-feet of physical distancing in nearly all situations, but not 6-feet.

In addition to these four COVID+ cases, several staff and students have been placed into sick protocol for COVID-related symptoms for which we are awaiting test results. Lewis County currently has an average 14-day rolling COVID positivity rate of 7.6% resulting in our community having one of the highest rates in New York State.

Please continue to be vigilant in practicing and encouraging good hand-washing and hygiene, proper wearing of face coverings, and social distancing whenever possible. These actions are the foundation of keeping yourself and others safe and healthy. Also, a friendly and very important reminder to stay home from school or work if you are sick. Safeguarding the health and safety of our schools and community starts with everyone and is only as strong as our weakest link.

As the school year continues to progress, we will continue to monitor and review our protocols and practices. Our ultimate goal, above all else, is to keep our students, faculty/staff and school community safe, while also protecting and preserving every day in-person instruction and involvement in athletics and extracurricular activities.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation. Be well and be safe.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo
Superintendent of Schools