



EAST PALESTINE CITY SCHOOLS

200 WEST NORTH AVENUE EAST PALESTINE, OHIO 44413
Mr. Chris Neifer, Superintendent (PHONE) 330 426-4191

October 4, 2021

Good evening East Palestine families, this is Mr. Neifer, EPCSD Superintendent.

East Palestine City Schools has been closely monitoring COVID-19 in our school community in collaboration with the Columbiana County Health Department. We have done a good job up to this point in monitoring school and community spread and using our mitigation strategies to avoid any major upswing in positive cases. Unfortunately, the last 24 hours has presented us with a different story. We have been notified of **8 positive cases** among our staff and students. As a result of positive cases in the school community, **77 students** have been placed on quarantine due to close contact. We are also aware of **11 positive screens** with students and staff that are awaiting test results.

Due to this high positivity and quarantine rate **we will be instituting a mask mandate for the East Palestine City School District to take effect immediately.** K-12 students, staff, and visitors of East Palestine School District will be required to wear a mask to school and to any event that takes place within a school building. This mandate will be in effect starting Tuesday morning, October 5th for all K-12 students. Mask wearing for Preschool students is strongly recommended, but not mandatory.

We continue to stress that families monitor their children for COVID symptoms and that students and staff stay home if exhibiting any symptoms. We will also be continuing extra cleaning of high-touch areas, and other safety precautions including frequent hand washing and social distancing when possible.

We understand that these decisions may not be popular among all our families, but please understand that we are doing our best to keep students and staff in an in-person environment. We will reevaluate every two weeks and keep families and students updated.

On separate note - On behalf of our Food Service Director we would like to let our families know that the school breakfast and lunch menus are subject to change daily due to product shortages and delays. Rest assured that your child will still be offered a complete meal for breakfast and lunch however, it may not reflect what is on the current posted menu. Thank you for your understanding.

On behalf of the administration and staff, stay safe and healthy, and as always GO BULLDOGS!!!

Bulldog PRIDE