



# EAST PALESTINE CITY SCHOOLS

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

October 18, 2021

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

As promised, East Palestine City Schools has continued to closely monitor the COVID-19 data in our school and community in collaboration with the Columbiana County Health Department.

- In the last 2 weeks Columbiana County has moved in rank from 28th to 9th in the state in terms of positivity rate per 100,000 people. That puts us in the top 10% of the state.
- The number of pediatric cases (children under age of 18) according to the zip code data provided by the County Health Department shows 31 positive cases for the first 2 weeks of October. The same area showed 41 total cases for the month of September and 0 cases for the same time frame last year.
- The district data shows that we had 22 positive cases in the school district during the months of August and September. The first 2 weeks of October we have seen 28 cases already.
- On a positive note the introduction of masks has lowered the quarantine rate for in-school exposure and increased attendance as designed.
- DATA Charts Included Below (available on school district website)

Due to the high positivity rate in the county and local zip codes and the positive impact the implementation of masks has had on attendance and in-school quarantines **we will be continuing with a mask mandate for the East Palestine City School District.** 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.

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 learning environment. We will reevaluate this decision in two weeks and keep families and students updated.

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

## Bulldog PRIDE

County Cases per 100,000 Residents over 2 weeks (OH - 88 Counties)				
Archive Date	Columbiana County Rank	Cases per 100,000	Statewide Avg	Case count
9/30/21	28	860.8	616.7	877
10/7/21	25	818.6	560.5	834
10/14/21	9	839.2	507.4	855

\*Source - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/overview>

County Zip Code Data Includes Positive Cases Reported (up to age 18)			
Zip Code	9/1/21 - 9/30/21	10/1/21 - 10/14/21	10/1/20-10/14/20
44413 - EP	18	17	0
44445 - N. Waterford	12	13	0
44441 - Negley	11	3	0

\*Source - Columbiana County Health District

EPCSD Data				
	8/23/21 - 8/31/21	9/1/21-9/30/21	10/1/21-10/8/21	10/11/21-10/15/21
EPCSD Positive Covid-19 Data	Students - 4 cases	Students:13 cases	Students - 8 cases	Students: 12 cases
	Staff - 2 cases	Staff - 3 cases	Staff - 6 cases	Staff - 2 cases
Isolation/Quarantine Data	In-School: 0	In-School: 52	In-School: 101	In-School: 20
	Non-School: 6	Non-School: 67	Non-School: 15	Non-School: 34
Attendance	95.09%	89.42%	87.3%	91.37%

\*Source - EPCSD

**Bulldog PRIDE**