

Viking Family--This morning information was sent out regarding the fact that USD 330 Mission Valley was notified late last night of a high school student who tested positive for COVID-19 and was at school yesterday. The intent of this letter is to provide information that will hopefully help with understanding of the process that happens when we receive such information.

When we receive information such as this we immediately begin gathering information to identify a list of people who are or suspected to be close contacts, as well as, contact the Wabaunsee County Health Department for assistance in making an informed decision on what steps the district should take. Decisions made by the school district and local health department are done so under recommendations and guidance from the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. As a school district we do not have the authority to "quarantine" a student or staff member, however, we do have the authority to exclude a student or staff member until such a time that it can be proven safe for them to return.

There is no set rule as to whether the school should be closed or not closed. What is discussed between the health department and the school district to make that decision are such things as: What is the level of possible exposure that may have occurred? What are the area(s) of possible exposure? What is the amount of time the (+) case has been in the facility? Are we able to notify and/or exclude people who are or suspected to be close contacts? Are we able to clean and sanitize areas where exposure has occurred prior to students/staff reentering those areas?

If the health department feels it is safe to have school then the district will make the decision on whether to have school or not. If the health department does not feel that it is safe to resume school then the district will follow the health department's decision and close school until such a time determined otherwise by the health department. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis using all the information that we have at the time.

Each day classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, and office areas are cleaned and sanitized. Student desks and other high contact areas in the classrooms are cleaned and sanitized daily; some multiple times during the day. In addition to hand cleaning, USD 330 Mission Valley also uses a Clorox 360 machine in each classroom to assist with disinfecting and sanitizing. This innovative electrostatic sprayer delivers sanitizing solutions which adhere to the front, back and sides of surfaces for better germ protection. In addition to the Clorox 360 machine custodial staff also use a smaller sprayer to clean handles, light switches, etc..

Restrooms and locker rooms are cleaned with our Kaivac Cleaning System which allows the custodians to spray disinfecting solutions over the entire area and then vacuum up the solution when done. This year, USD 330 Mission Valley also hired an extra person to assist with sanitizing during the school day when students are present in the building. This individual's primary duty is to move throughout our facilities sanitizing high touch areas, as well as, sanitizing student desks when classrooms are free from students such as during a teacher's

plan time, when students are at recess, or at another activity outside of the classroom. Each classroom has a set of cleaning supplies that are available at all times.

School buses are sanitized at the end of each route so that they are ready to go the next time students are transported. Each bus also has a full set of cleaning supplies that is available at all times for the drivers. To assist with sanitizing busses the transportation department often uses aerosol foggers that are released at the end of the route and then allowed time to sit until the next route starts.

As with most things in life, there is no guarantee of being 100% protected against COVID-19 or any other illness, however, the sanitizing & disinfecting procedures that USD 330 Mission Valley are using have been highly recommended as what is needed to help keep students, staff, and visitors safe when at our facilities. Our procedures have been given to the local health department and have received their support.

The health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors are a priority, while at the same time, working to provide an education to all students in a manner that is effective under the current conditions. If you have any questions related to health and safety at Mission Valley please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support of Mission Valley Schools!!! GO VIKINGS!!!