## Newark Community Consolidated School District # 66

October 30, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

Kendall County is now listed in the orange increased risk metric of transmission for COVID19 cases. Positive case counts have put the county in community transmission that is uncontrolled. County test positivity rates, case rates and other data indicate an outbreak and puts the county at a substantial rating. All of this county indicator data could cause our school district to be asked to go to complete remote learning in the future.

We want to assure you we are keeping our own district metrics. As of this letter, we have had three (3) positive cases from August 18 through October 30. This is less than 1% of our district student/staff population. The Kendall County metric data is attached to the email and is posted on our website under our COVID resource tab.

We want to stress that the decisions being made by the community are causing cases to rise. Our school district is following our protocols on cleaning/disinfecting, identifying symptoms, wearing masks, hand sanitizing, and doing our best to practice 6ft social distancing.

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Students or staff who have symptoms which could be related to COVID-19 are instructed to go home
  and contact their health care provider for guidance. The family members of the ill person must
  quarantine at home with the ill person until the symptomatic individual either has a non-COVID
  diagnosis from his/her doctor, a negative COVID test, or has completed a 10-14 day quarantine and is
  no longer symptomatic.
- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, as previously directed and per school policy.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in contact with children and other staff in the facility.
- We are continuously sanitizing high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc.
- We have removed plush toys and other toys that cannot be properly or frequently disinfected.
- We are teaching students the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing:
  - o Students are discouraged from sharing personal items, e.g., water bottles.
  - Students are learning new ways to greet each other without touching.
  - Students are reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, and to cover coughs and sneezes.

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As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms. Sick persons should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed. Anyone who develops severe symptoms should seek medical care immediately. If your child has had close contact with a known case of COVID-19, keep the child at home and notify your primary healthcare provider, your child's school, and your local health department.

We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect your children, your families, and our staff and their families.

For any questions or concerns, please contact us at 815-695-5143 or 630-553-5435.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Demetra Turman, Superintendent Mrs. Karen Sapsford, School Nurse