



Notice to Families and Staff
November 2, 2020

Please find below a statement from Galesburg-Augusta Community School District and Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department regarding the recent COVID-19 positive test.

Over the weekend and with more testing today, the Galesburg-Augusta Community School District has identified a total of five (5) G-A individuals who tested positive. They include: one (1) high school student, one (1) high school teacher, one (1) middle school teacher/coach, one (1) middle school support staff and one (1) primary school teacher have tested positive for Covid-19. All contact tracing has occurred.

Because two (2) of our positive cases are both from our MS Volleyball program, the State does qualify that as an outbreak. At this time, we are not aware that any student athletes from this program have tested positive.

What is important to know is that the number of positive tests is LOW compared to the number of students and staff we have at G-ACS. That is a result of quick action to isolate and quarantine. Schools are considered safer because we adhere to safety protocols and quickly act when notified of a positive test.

Unfortunately, like most workplaces, we also have staff who are quarantined because of exposure OUTSIDE of school. All staff and students who have been exposed MUST quarantine for 14 days. One cannot “test out” of quarantine.

As of today, we have 28 instructional staff quarantined and 4 instructional staff isolated. We have had to quarantine 145 students. *As difficult a decision as this is, we are unable to staff our buildings for in person instruction.*

- **At this time learning for Pre-K – 12th grade students will occur VIRTUALLY the rest of this week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (no school Friday).**
- **Additionally, 4th – 12th grade students will learn virtually through Friday, November 13, 2020.**
- **MS/HS students will return to school on Monday November 16, 2020.**
- **The Enhancement Center and Daycare will remain OPEN. Students MUST attend ONLY on their normally scheduled days.**

Total COVID-19 positive cases per building, staff, students and the district totals are now available on our website under “[COVID-19 Dashboard](#).” Our current totals are: 11 students and 8 staff since we opened.

Covid-19 is being brought into our school. Several individuals have come to school not feeling well, but thinking it is “just a head cold” or “allergies.” It is critical that parents ask their children each day whether they have any symptoms at all and if so, please keep them home.

We are seeing widespread community transmission of Covid-19 within Kalamazoo County. Because schools can quickly contract trace and because we follow rigid mitigation strategies, this exposure is not necessarily happening in our school buildings. Most are happening in social gatherings outside of school. We urge families to minimize your contact with those outside your immediate household. If we do that, we will be much more likely to continue having school open for learning.

Galesburg-Augusta Community School District works closely with the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department on all public health recommendations for the district, the specific school buildings, and those identified as affected individuals. As a reminder to parents and guardians:

If your child is ill, please keep them home. If he/she develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19, they should be kept home, and the parent or guardian should contact their child’s Primary Care Physician.

COVID-19 is a contagious viral illness that can occur 2-14 days after exposure to an individual with the virus. Exposure, also known as close contact, includes being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or longer. The virus is spread by droplets in the air and sometimes on surfaces that come inside a person’s mouth, nose, or eyes. Based on available evidence, the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children generally show no symptoms or mild symptoms. Reported symptoms include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, new loss of taste or smell, feeling out of breath, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.