



2400 MASON EAGLES DR.
ERIE, MI 48133
ERIE.MASON.K12.MI.US

October 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff:

Today, Sunday, October 25, we were notified of an additional positive COVID-19 individual at Mason Middle School. This means that we have two current cases at the middle school. When there are two individuals that are not from the same household confirmed to be positive, we call this an outbreak. Therefore, Mason Middle School is considered to have an outbreak with two positive cases.

Per our outlined plan, we are required to communicate with the Monroe County Health Department upon notification of any positive case. We have been in contact with the head of disease control for the Monroe County Health Department and are following the guidance outlined regarding notification, quarantine, and response to a positive case. **At their request, we have provided names and contact information of all contacts who were less than 6 feet away from the positive individual for more than 15 minutes. All known close contacts on our school campus have been contacted and required to quarantine for 14 days.** We will continue to work with the local health officials to determine appropriate next steps.

NOTE: A couple of middle school staff members were already in the quarantine due to close contact with off-campus individuals. Our most recent two cases have forced us to quarantine a few more. This has created a challenge with staffing classrooms with such short notice. Due to this, Mason Middle School will be closed for in-person instruction on Monday, October 26 and Tuesday, October 27. Students are required to login to their Google Classroom accounts to check for assignments for their courses. Students are not required to login at any particular time for core classes, but all work should be reviewed during the regular instructional day (appx 7:30am-1:30pm). Students are required to login to their virtual hour from 1:30-2:22 on both days. We are sorry for the inconvenience and look forward to seeing the students back for in-person instruction on Wednesday, Oct 28.

As a reminder, the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person to person, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are less than 6 feet from other each other for at least 15 minutes. A person who is a close contact of someone who is infected with COVID-19 may experience COVID-19 symptoms typically within 2 to 14 days after a person is exposed.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. Symptoms can include:

Fever (>100.4 degrees F), cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy nose, loss of taste or smell, abdominal pain.

There are many things that can be done to keep our schools, homes, and communities "COVID-19 free" and protect ourselves and loved ones:

- Check your temp each morning. Children and adults should stay home when ill.
- Wash hands often with soap and running warm water for at least 20 seconds.



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- If a hand washing station is not available, use hand sanitizer properly. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes must contain at least 60% alcohol. Dispose of wipes in the trash after use.
- Practice Good Respiratory Etiquette (cover a cough with elbow versus hand).
- Follow guidance for wearing a face covering and social distancing.

No further action is required, yet we encourage you to continue to monitor and evaluate your child's health daily by using the student screening found on the COVID-19 page of the District/School Website. Additionally, up to date resources can be found on the Monroe County Health Department page at www.co.monroe.mi.us Further questions regarding COVID-19 can be answered by contacting the Monroe County Health Department at (734)240-7860.

Please know that when a case is identified, we conduct additional cleaning and disinfecting in areas throughout the school and transportation if applicable. We will continue to have students and staff wear facial coverings while in buildings and social distancing wherever possible, along with continued cleaning and disinfecting of light switches, doorknobs/push bars, locker handles, toys, bathrooms, copy machines, busses, desks, etc. in addition to our regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule.

Additionally, please be reminded that resources and information regarding COVID-19 and Mason Consolidated Schools confirmed and probable cases can be found by visiting the District website COVID-19 page.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping all students and staff safe by following all screening protocols, remaining home when sick and supporting students in both in-person and remote environments. It is critical that our partnership continues to strengthen as we battle this virus together.

Respectfully,

Kelli A. Tuller

Superintendent, Mason Consolidated Schools