DUSD Parents and Students, Thursday, August 19, 2021

Tomorrow will be a big day in our District. We will be hosting our first football game of the season! Why is this day different from any of the other “first football games” in the past? Well, with COVID, you never know when you will get to play. One team that we will play later in the season has already lost their first two games due to COVID. We will celebrate every victory we can get!

Across the State and Country students are being quarantined, sports are being shut down and schools are changing directions on a daily basis. It is no different for us here in Duncan. We have to adjust daily in response to the students, staff and parents who have become infected with the virus.

I anticipate that next week will be a very telling week as it is our second full week of school. Any person who has been exposed from contact of “new” people will have had time to show signs or symptoms of the virus by next week. Parents, students and staff should take a very close look at your health over this weekend and make sure if there is any sign of illness, that you do not come to school.

A bit of information on quarantine may be helpful here:

One question I have answered several times lately is “who places someone on quarantine”? The answer to that question is: The County Health Department! I get notified if any student or staff has been quarantined, and then I uphold that quarantine for any event on our school campuses.

How is it determined if someone needs to quarantine? If you had close contact with someone who tested positive, you will be quarantined.

Is there any way to avoid that quarantine? Yes! If you were wearing a mask, or if the person who tested positive was wearing a mask when you had close contact with each other, you may avoid quarantine. In addition, if you have been vaccinated, you may avoid quarantined. Each case is different and the quarantine is determined on a case by case basis through the County.

I do encourage anyone who has questions about our procedures relating to COVID to contact me and discuss those issues.

I am very much looking forward to the “Thursday” letter that I can start with the statement, “things are looking up”! That will be an incredibly exciting day! As for now, it appears we continue to be in the thick of the battle! Thank you for fighting this battle with me.

Let’s continue to do what we know will help control the spread of the virus.

Have a wonderful weekend!

D. Eldon Merrell

Superintendent, Duncan Schools