



WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Exceptional, Personalized Education

Superintendent Tom DeKeyser

October 10, 2020

Today the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) confirmed two positive cases in our district. An upper elementary student and a high school student. The immediate grades impacted are 4th and 9th.

WLPS staff is completing contact tracing and will report to WCHD any student or staff member who is considered a close contact. Close contacts of a positive case have to be isolated from school for 14 days and move to remote learning. The WCHD determines the return date. (A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of the positive person for at least 15 minutes). Close contacts will be notified today. If you are not notified today, your son or daughter is not considered a close contact. A thorough investigation of student movement is always conducted following the notification of a positive COVID-19 case.. The entirety of each campus is considered, including athletic and extracurricular areas and buses.

I specifically mention athletics because last night a post was put on social media that accused WLHS of not adhering to health department rules. This post was full of misinformation. Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns about how our district COVID-19 investigations are handled. I can assure you that ALL staff, including coaches, are working diligently to keep all students, including student athletes, safe. All of them put their own concerns aside about returning to school for the benefit of our community. Collectively, we felt it was the right thing to do. It pains me when these same people get accused, falsely, of not following safety rules. It just isn't true. My email is tom.dekeyser@wlps.net.

It is worth noting that our announcement on Friday regarding remote instruction October 12 - October 15 was in anticipation of this COVID positive information. Our parents have been really good about keeping kids home when symptoms appear and communicating with WLPS. Without that relationship and open communication, we could not establish long patterns of in-person instruction. Thank you for your understanding as I'm sure rearranging schedules next week will be inconvenient.

Thank you again for your cooperation and continued support as we navigate this pandemic together as a school community.

Tom DeKeyser
Superintendent
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