



## WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Phone: 734.449.4464 | Fax: 734.449.5336 | [www.wlps.net](http://www.wlps.net)  
Exceptional, Personalized Education

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Superintendent Tom DeKeyser

### Confirmed Positive at WLES and District Updates

October 23, 2020

Good Afternoon,

Today the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) confirmed two positive cases at our elementary school. An upper elementary and a non-classroom staff member. The immediate grades impacted are 4th grade.

WLPS staff is completing contact tracing and will report to WCHD any student or staff member who is 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. 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 by email. If you are not notified today, your son or daughter is not considered a close contact.

Thank you, parents and families, for cooperating with the remote learning plan last week. All students required to isolate have returned to our buildings. I also want to extend appreciation to families who are diligently looking out for the interests of the entire school community by keeping their children home when symptomatic or when potential exposure to coronavirus is made known to them. As cases in the state continue to rise, we, as a school community need to make safe choices to stay open. This does not apply to just the school day, but after school hours and on the weekends. Please review, as a family, [this document](#) put together by the WCHD on how to reduce your risk. Many people contract COVID-19 through no fault of their own. We recognize that. But together we can make low-risk choices to protect ourselves, and our school community, from getting or spreading COVID-19. WLPS will continue to update parents of confirmed cases and post information on our website.

### Food Service

In case you haven't heard, Whitmore Lake Public Schools is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to grant **free meals to ALL students throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year**. To participate, please visit the WLPS [food service website](#). There, you'll find monthly menus and a weekly survey you need to complete to let us know which meals your student plans to eat. If you have a virtual student and would like to participate in the program, you may pick up a box containing five breakfasts and lunches for your student on Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Whitmore Lake High School. Please sign up [HERE](#).

### Mask Update



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Following an increase in positive cases in Washtenaw County, the health department (WCHD) issued a health order requiring masks on ALL students. **Therefore, students in grades K-4 are now required to use masks in the classroom.** Teachers will be coordinating frequent breaks from masks for students while they are socially distanced from each other. I continue to meet weekly with WCHD officials and will update families if this new requirement changes.

### Virtual Learning

I also want to thank the parents and students in our virtual academy for their patience and understanding amidst many changes which were made last week. The planning and adjustments were strategic and will improve the experience; but the communication was my responsibility, and some parents were not aware of the changes until they were underway. Regardless of the program, all WLPS students deserve our best. The changes have brought in more grade level and content expertise, something all parents expect of any WLPS learning experience.

I'll wrap up by commending our building leaders, Ms. Henry and Ms. Roy-Borland, for doing an excellent job maintaining safe learning environments. Each has provided important updates for the week of October 26. The WLES Weekly Update can be found [HERE](#). A letter from Ms. Henry can be found [HERE](#).

Sincerely,

Tom DeKeyser  
Superintendent  
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