



WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Exceptional, Personalized Education

Superintendent Tom DeKeyser

November 11, 2020

Confirmed COVID Positive Case at WLHS

Today I received notice that a Whitmore Lake High School student tested positive for COVID-19. The family was proactive in isolating the student at symptom onset. As a result, no close contacts have been identified in the WLPS community. It is important to understand that 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. The Washtenaw County Health Department will also do additional tracing for out-of-school close contacts, which could impact our school community, as well as verify our contact tracing. Close contacts of a positive case have to be isolated from school for 14 days and move to remote learning. (A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of the positive person for at least 15 minutes during the 48 hours prior to the positive person showing symptoms.) The student is in 11th grade.

Remote Learning Plans for the Week of November 30

In an effort to proactively combat the isolation/quarantine of students following the Thanksgiving Break (November 25-29), WLPS is planning for remote learning Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 4. This time frame will allow families who choose to be with relatives over the holiday to evaluate any symptoms, which often don't appear in children for days after exposure. For instance, a Friday exposure may not manifest itself with symptoms until Monday or Tuesday. If students are sent to school during that period it could result in mass quarantines, which put our students and staff at greater risk and would negatively impact our end of semester academic plans including final exams at the secondary level.

I understand how hard it is for families to make alternate arrangements on short notice. Hopefully providing you with this information now will minimize the impact to your family. If you have any questions or concerns relative to this correspondence, please feel free to contact me.

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Superintendent
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