

Chippewa Hills

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School District

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Dear Warrior Families:

As we made the decision to return to in person instruction, we knew it would only be a matter of time before we ran into Covid-19 incidents that would impact our staff, students and families. My initial plan stated “when” and not “if” we would be hit by this epidemic in our school settings. Unfortunately, that time has come and we are starting to see some fallout as the numbers in Isabella and Mecosta county continue on the upward trend. There are two parts to this scenario so please bear with me as I try to share as much as possible while maintaining the confidentiality of those impacted as required by law.

Our first school impact has occurred at Barryton Elementary with a substitute teacher testing positive over the weekend which resulted in an exposure to some of our staff and students prior to that as the contagious stage is assessed 48 hours before symptoms appear. In conjunction with the health department, we have advised 2 staff members and 15 students to quarantine for 14 days as a direct contact to a positive case. All of those calls have already been made so the impacted families are aware. Learning will continue virtually for those students as well during this time so please put in the necessary time to complete work and communicate with your child’s teachers to reduce that learning gap that can occur. All other staff and students are asked to monitor for symptoms and should any of the known symptoms appear (refer to your magnet for guidance) please keep your child home and seek medical advice.

It is regretful that this situation occurred but we need to remember to not place blame on anyone as this virus has impacted many people and nobody intentionally sets out to contaminate others. It is important to remember that we all need to do our part by wearing masks, washing frequently and social distancing as much as possible at all times. Everything we do matters and each of us doing our part limits exposures.

The second share is much more personal. I am now quarantined due to my wife testing positive yesterday. She works in the healthcare field and is certainly at more risk even with all the precautions taken. I have been tested also, awaiting results, and anticipate a positive result (though this is not for sure yet). I will be doing work from home remotely, which can be done, although it requires accommodations by others who work directly with me. I can assure you, this is not school related and I will do nothing to compromise our Warriors families as we deal with this battle. I know I speak for both Gail and myself thanking those who have stepped up to offer support and help, and we truly appreciate the prayers.

This is just the beginning of a long trial that will forever mark the school year of 2020-21. We will prevail and do all within our grasp to make the best of this time and maximize our learning opportunities while maintaining safety at school. I appreciate all that has been done thus far by our staff to minimize these risks and our success to this point is due to their efforts. As I said, it was only a matter of time “when” this would happen. However, we will do our best to mitigate the spread following health department guidance. Thanks for all of your support as we meddle through this unknown territory and for working with our staff as they do their best to maintain some sense of normalcy. Chippewa Hills is a great place to learn, work and live, and that is all due to our collaborative efforts. Thank you.