



October 14, 2020

Dear Wattles Parents,

We have been informed that one of our Kindergarten students has tested positive for COVID-19. This student was only in school for one day, on Monday, October 5, and stayed home after developing symptoms the next day. The student's parents received notice of the positive test result last night.

We immediately notified the Oakland County Health Division and they have begun their investigation to determine if any other students in the class may need to self-quarantine through Sunday (14 days from potential exposure.) As they work through their process, we have decided to act with an abundance of caution and have all students in that classroom learn virtually for the remainder of the week.

Parents of students who were attending in-person in that class have been notified by phone of this precautionary move. Due to the safety protocols we have in place, we do not believe any other students outside that class were directly exposed, per OCHD guidelines.

Tomorrow, our operations staff will begin the process of deep cleaning that classroom. As a precautionary measure, tonight they will also be "fogging" every common area at Wattles, including the cafeteria, gymnasium and hallways. Fogging is applying a disinfectant through a dedicated fogging machine.

One important takeaway from this experience is that the safety protocols we have in place are important and may have prevented any spread to other students and staff. Consistently wearing masks, physically distancing as far apart as possible and using good hygiene are critical to keep others safe. Most importantly in this case, the daily health screening may have prompted the parents to be aware that the student had a fever, so we will continue to make daily calls to all families reminding them to that the health assessment is mandatory (originally, we only planned to do calls for one week as grades transitioned back, but now have determined that all in-seat families will get a call every morning.)

The other critical thing we can all do is to keep students home if they feel sick. The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority and we are working closely with the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) to ensure the well-being of all. If you have any questions or want to learn more about local resources and what prevention measures you can take, please visit the OCHD COVID-19 website: <https://www.oakgov.com/covid/Pages/default.aspx>.

I know you will join me in sending our best wishes for a quick recovery to the student involved and I also ask that you also work alongside me to respect the privacy of his/her family. Per the Health Division recommendations, the student will not return to school until he/she has been symptom and fever-free for at least 24 hours after a ten-day isolation period is over.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr. Joyce Brasington
Principal
Wattles Elementary

Kerry Birmingham
Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives
Troy School District