



October 16, 2020

Dear Athens Families,

Late this afternoon, we were notified that a member of our Athens staff tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member was last in the building on Friday, October 9 and did not have any close contact with students.

We immediately notified the Oakland County Health Division and they have now begun their process to verify the result and perform contact tracing. Two other staff members have been advised to self-quarantine as a precaution while we wait for the results of the OCHD investigation.

Over the weekend, the Operations Department will deep clean the classroom and department office where this staff member spent time. The team will also perform regular disinfection in all areas of the building, paying special attention to the areas where this staff member may have been.

We want to reassure you that our intention is to be as transparent and communicative as possible but it's important to remember that we all must respect the privacy of our colleagues, students and community and follow HIPPA guidelines. Due to privacy considerations, no details will be shared about individual cases. We encourage our community to be respectful of privacy.

One important takeaway from this experience is that the safety protocols we have in place are important and we encourage our returning students to take these measures seriously. Consistently wearing masks, physically distancing as far apart as possible and using good hygiene are critical to prevent any community spread. The other critical thing you can do as we start to return is to keep your student home when experiencing any symptoms that may be unusual for them. COVID-19 is a contagious viral illness that spreads in the air through coughing, sneezing, and talking but symptoms can vary widely, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Remember, keeping a student home does not mean they miss instruction—students can simply log in virtually the way they always have.

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 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 staff member involved. As always, know that we are here for you with any questions, concerns or feedback. Please feel free to reach out to me or Kerry Birmingham at any time.

Thank you for your cooperation and support,

Dr. Lara Dixon
Principal
Athens High School

Kerry Birmingham
Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives
Troy School District