



Community Schools

November 9, 2020

Dear Gull Lake Community Schools Families,

Over the past few weeks, our District, like many others in the region, is seeing a rapid increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases being confirmed for both students and staff members. As part of our plan for disrupting the spread of COVID-19, we are committed to using temporary measures such as entering quarantine for up to 14 days so that proper contact tracing can be conducted and delivered with fidelity.

Due to the high number of positive cases and quarantines we are experiencing at this particular moment during our school year, we will be moving all students to 100% remote virtual learning starting next Monday, November 16th. We will return to in-person learning on Monday, November 30th for Y5-5th grade and Hybrid Learning for grades 6-12.

The Kalamazoo Health and Community Services Department, in collaboration with Nurse Megan and the Gull Lake team, continue to perform our contact tracing protocol. All of our new cases are due to behaviors outside the school environment and fall outside the recommendations provided in Nurse Megan's Nurse Notes #2 that have been sent out over the past two weeks through Peachjar and our District webpage. We have confirmed that several cases are a result of students traveling together in vehicles or attendance at indoor social events where social distancing and mask wearing is not happening consistently. The team has communicated necessary safety information to involved individuals and families. We ask that everyone who has a confirmed positive case contact Nurse Megan with that information as soon as you are aware so that we can mitigate and manage potential exposures.

Our ability to offer in-person learning is directly related to how well we manage our exposures outside the school environment. Attendance at athletic events will also be dependent on adherence to safety protocols. Please continue to monitor your student's health on a daily basis and contact Nurse Megan if any symptoms manifest. Our COVID-19 trend line is of great concern and we are prepared to take necessary steps to reduce potential exposures if the situation warrants, such as the additional days of remote virtual instruction added to our calendar at the start of next week.

Thank you for your continued diligence adhering to District safety protocols.

Be safe, be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raphael Rittenhouse', is written in a cursive style.

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent

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