



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Services Department

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Dear Families,

10/14/2021

As a follow up to Dr. Van Tassel's communication earlier today noting the classroom specific positive cases at McAlister Intermediate School, the purpose of this letter is to provide all of our families with helpful information as we work together to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

It is important that students in your home are monitored daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The symptoms of COVID-19 include but are not limited to:

- fever 100.4 or over
- chills
- cough and/or shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- sore throat
- headache
- fatigue
- muscle/body aches
- abdominal pain
- nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- new loss of taste or smell
- rash
- sudden loss of sense of smell or taste

Please understand that if your child exhibits the symptoms above prior to coming to school or comes to school symptomatic and is sent home, your child will be quarantined according to current guidelines (*see the District's FAQs under the School Model Status tab on the website*) unless there is documentation of a discrete infection (such as an ear infection or strep throat) that can be treated with antibiotics. In that case, the child will be permitted to return to school with documentation from a doctor and they must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication and symptoms significantly improved. If there is no discrete infection and the symptoms are consistent with those listed above the student will be required to quarantine for 10 days. The only exception to the 10 day quarantine allowing your child to return to school is proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Rapid or PCR tests are accepted, however, this test may not be a home kit test.

We are hopeful that close monitoring of the symptoms of COVID-19 in our children and regular communication with our nursing team will allow us to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep everyone in our school community healthy and safe. Thank for your support and cooperation.

Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us with questions.

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