



High Rate of Covid Cases Update

1 message

Dear DCS Families,

In the last two weeks, we have been notified of a significant increase in individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. The pace of the spread in some classrooms and the increase in positive cases has us concerned about the safety of our staff/students/families, continued spread, and the potential for rolling quarantines disrupting families for months. Washtenaw County is seeing an increase of cases in 5-11 and 12-17 year old students. We are working closely with the Washtenaw County Health Department to determine if there is an outbreak at Creekside Intermediate School and Wylie Elementary School.

At this time, we do not plan to close classrooms or move them to remote learning. A move to remote learning would require synchronous zoom sessions all day or us making up days at the end of the year. We believe we can continue to keep students safely in the buildings as long as we can maintain staffing. We are working with the Washtenaw County Health Department on test-to-stay options for students. Students who have been identified as close contacts and chosen the test-to-stay option have, overall, tested negative.

Our goal this year is to keep our kids in school and to keep our students, families, and staff safe. We are fortunate to have a very high percentage of our students, staff, and community members who are vaccinated. Universal masking and other layered strategies have helped us keep kids in school. This is our top priority but we need your help.

If your child is experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, please keep them home and get them tested. Dexter Community Schools has arranged for PCR testing with a 6 to 12 hour turnaround offered at Jensen's Pharmacy in Dexter at [7067 Dexter Ann Arbor Road](#). Jensen's is open Monday through Saturday between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please pre-register at rapidbio.com/covid19, pick an appointment time. Choose SARS-CoV-2 rt PCR and then choose Location as Jensen's Community Pharmacy ([7067 Dexter Ann Arbor Rd](#)). Call them from your car when you are curbside at their store (734)426-6210 and they will come out to you. Test results are usually available within 24 hours.

COVID related symptoms include:

- Temperature 100.4 or signs of a fever (chills/sweating)
- Sore Throat
- New onset of cough
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of headache
- Lost of taste or smell

We continue to work closely with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) and we will continue following all guidelines and protocols. As a reminder, we need *everyone* to do their part to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. This includes keeping your child home if they're experiencing *any* symptoms, completing the daily health screener, masking up, social distancing, practicing healthy hygiene habits, and if you can, get vaccinated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Washtenaw County Health Department at **734-544-6700**, health@washtenaw.org or your pediatrician.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to each other.

Take care and Go Dreads!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD

Superintendent