NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, schools and departments must notify the Local Health Department of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case(s) among students or staff (as required by NCGS § 130A-136).

Duplin County Schools is committed to providing effective and timely communication to all parents and staff during this pandemic consistent with existing laws and procedures. DCS will provide notification of confirmed clusters of COVID-19, while school is in session.

The notification process is as follows:

1. When a COVID-19 cluster is confirmed by the Duplin County Health Department, the Health Department will contact the DCS Nurse Supervisor.
2. The DCS Nurse Supervisor will notify the Superintendent's Office and the school nurse.
3. The school nurse will notify the principal.
4. Duplin County Schools will notify parents and employees when there is a confirmed COVID-19 cluster in their school or department, while school is in session. A cluster is defined as five or more linked cases. Contact tracing efforts will continue and individuals with possible exposure will be notified. As always, parents, guardians, and staff members are encouraged to ensure they have provided the school and department with current contact information.

By law, Duplin County Schools shall not divulge personally identifiable health information or information that can inadvertently lead to an identification. Confidentiality shall be maintained in accordance with NCGS§ 130A-143. If exposure to a student or employee meets the NC Department of Health and Human Services' and/or the Duplin County Health Departments requirements for mandated precautionary quarantine, the student's parents/guardians and staff members will be immediately advised by the Duplin County Health Department. A precautionary quarantine does not mean that an employee or student is sick or will become sick, but may be required by the Duplin County Health Department based on case-by-case circumstances.

The NCDHHS publicly reports ongoing clusters (i.e. minimum of five cases) through an online dashboard to include childcare facilities and school settings. The COVID-19 Ongoing Clusters in Child Care and School Settings Report will be updated every Tuesday by 4:00 PM.

