

Dear Parents/Guardians,

October 30, 2020

I am writing to provide an update on school and the status of Covid-19. First of all, I want to thank our students, staff, and parents for all of the cooperation with our safety protocols. The protocols we have established are proving to be very effective in managing the spread of the virus at Wayne Community Schools. To date, we have a very low count of individuals who have tested positive. As of the writing of this letter, approximately 1.2% of our total staff and student population have tested positive since school began in August. Based on contact tracing, individuals within our school system have contracted the virus outside of our schools, and there is no evidence of transmission of the virus occurring at school. We believe school is a very clean and safe place for our students and staff due to our pandemic response.

Knowing our cases have been very low should not allow us to become complacent with protocols. The community of Wayne and surrounding area has shown a rather dramatic increase in transmission of the virus. As the winter months draw near, and as the regular flu and cold season occur, we will need to be even more vigilant with our protocols. Please do the following with your students at home on a regular basis:

- 1) Talk to your children about the proper wearing of their face mask, covering their nose and mouth.
- 2) Talk to your children about the importance of very frequent hand washing and sanitizing.
- 3) Talk to your children about considering good social distancing practices to the extent possible. This includes time before and after school, at activities, and on nights and weekends.
- 4) Monitor your children's health on a daily basis, and if they are showing any symptoms, do not send them to school and call us at school or call your healthcare provider.

Recently, the State of Nebraska made changes to the designated health measures (DHM's). As they pertain to schools, the DHM reduced the allowed capacity of indoor events to 50%. This will impact our winter sports season and activities, and we will keep everyone abreast of any potential adjustments we will need to make to accommodate the regulation. Governor Ricketts has also started a "Three C's" campaign. The basis of the Three C's campaign is to:

- 1) Avoid crowded places.
- 2) Avoid close contact.
- 3) Avoid confined spaces.

Please talk with your children and your families about following this guidance from the State of Nebraska. Evidence shows that maintaining social distance, wearing a mask when that is not possible, and avoiding crowded and confined spaces is the most effective way to mitigate and reduce transmission of the virus. Also, a reminder, there is no school on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Originally, this day was a scheduled 10:00 late start. Due to the additional workload the pandemic has caused, we felt it is important to provide our teaching staff with some additional planning time, and our maintenance staff an opportunity to do some additional cleaning. School will resume as scheduled on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

Once again, thank you all for your cooperation and hard work. We are two weeks into the 2nd quarter of the 2020-21 school year, and our goal is to continue face-to-face regular instruction and activities the entire school year. In order to accomplish this, we need everyone to continue to follow our safety protocols. Together, we can make the 2020-21 school year a fantastic experience for our students. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Lenihan
Superintendent
Wayne Community Schools