

9/25/2020

Dear Green Lake Families,

I know many of you are wondering about the active cases of COVID-19 I've reported in the past two mailings. With the start of the school year, Wisconsin began seeing a surge in cases, especially among young people in the 18-24 age range. Green Lake County and the Green Lake School District have not been spared from this rise in cases. The school has confirmed five active cases since the beginning of the school year. This number includes students and staff members. From the five active cases, fourteen students and staff have been asked to quarantine.

I have also received questions about staff members being absent. Yes, several staff members were quarantined this past week as a precautionary measure due to the five active cases. Most of them will be back next week. Some of our staff members have been advised to quarantine because of a family member, and some are experiencing illness not related to COVID-19.

I have also been asked about our decision to close the school. Our school team is learning more everyday about how to manage a productive learning environment in the midst of a pandemic. Our decision will be based on metrics. Green Lake County Health Department has provided a decision-making framework that will guide us in determining the best learning model for our students- in-person, hybrid, or virtual. Metrics are based on the level of community transmission- the average number of COVID-19 cases per day in a 14-day period. We are watching the numbers carefully with the guidance of the health department.

Moving forward, the district will be creating a dashboard to notify you of the number of currently active COVID-19 cases and quarantines for both students and staff members. This information will be updated weekly. The dashboard will be on the school website.

The district will notify you if your child has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You will receive information from the health department to explain your next steps. You will also receive information from us regarding our virtual learning program so your student can continue in school during self-quarantine.

In return, we ask that you do not send your child to school if he/she has symptoms. Call the office and report that your child will not be in attendance. Your child will be able to participate in virtual learning until it is okay to return to school. Their attendance will not be affected.

We will do everything we can to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will continue wearing masks as mandated, practicing social distancing, and following a strict protocol of sanitizing the school. Our students are doing an amazing job of being mindful about their responsibilities to wear their mask over their nose and stay socially distanced from others. They know that this is critical to keeping each other healthy and allowing the school to remain open.

Please continue to ask us questions. I will always try my best to be honest with you. This is new to all of us, and we are here to help.

Sincerely,
Mary Allen
Superintendent