

Topic: Positive Case of COVID-19 in District

October 18, 2020

Dear Cassopolis Middle School parents, staff and community members:

Today, we received notification from the Health Department that a student from Cassopolis Middle School has tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the person involved, we believe it is best to communicate transparently with you so that you can make well-informed decisions for your family. Because our students are consistently together in a cohort, only the class effected and any student within in the 6ft range for over 15 minutes on that student's bus or any school extracurricular activity will need to be tentatively quarantined, pending further investigation by the health department, until October 30th and will be able to return to school on Monday, **November 2nd**. Those individuals have been contacted by the school and the health department will be reaching out to them as well.

There is nothing more important to us than the safety and health of our students, our staff and their families. We are working directly with county health officials to address this situation. They have recommended we share the following with you: if your child is sick, if you know that they have potentially been exposed, if anyone in the home is sick or has tested positive please follow the health department guidelines on keeping your child home.

COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, including in our community, it is important to be sensible, but to also be vigilant. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, please contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Cassopolis Public Schools will continue to clean and disinfect surfaces inside all district schools. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, it is important to remain vigilant. The CDC recommends the following best practices to help prevent the spread of this global pandemic:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Stay at home, if possible.
- If you must go out, practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.
- Avoid gatherings that include more than 10 people.

If you would like to learn more about COVID-19, the following links are reliable and accurate sources for information:

[CDC COVID-19 Information](#)

[Talking to Children About COVID-19](#)

Michigan.gov/coronavirus

Vbcassdhd.org/coronavirus

Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff and community members. Please continue to take necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. I encourage everyone to remain calm and to be empathic and respectful to those affected.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angela Piazza

Superintendent

VBCDHD is working closely with our local medical community to address COVID-19

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is not currently testing at our location.

If an individual suspects they have COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home and take one of the following steps:

1. Call their primary care provider (PCP) via telephone
2. Do a virtual visit with their health system/provider

3. Contact one of the three **Care Advisor Phone Numbers or Web Pages** provided by our local health systems. *these numbers are helpful for individuals who do not have a PCP.

**If your symptoms are life-threatening call 9-1-1*

Care Advisor Phone Numbers and Webpages

Bronson

(269) 341-7788

www.bronsonhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19

Ascension Borgess

(833) 978-0649

www.healthcare.ascension.org

Spectrum Health Lakeland

(616) 391-2380

<https://www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/covid19>

*a Chatbot is available online

*Drive-up testing is available but all patients require a physician's order to be tested.

InterCare Health Network

(855) 869-6980

<https://www.intercare.org/covid-19.html>

*Drive-thru testing is available. Individuals do NOT have to have a lab order (does NOT have to be InterCare only)