

Topic: Probable exposure to COVID-19 pending further investigation.

October 14, 2020

Dear Ranger families, staff and community members:

This morning, we learned the following information: A high school student became ill yesterday during the first hour of school and although they were sent home immediately, a family member has tested positive for COVID-19. Because this is a symptomatic student in a household with positive cases this becomes what is known as a probable exposure.

Students and staff who were exposed to the student have been contacted and are being quarantined by the Van Buren/Cass County Health Department.

As our country fights the spread of COVID-19, we believe one of our greatest responsibilities is to communicate transparently and often with you, our school community. It is our hope that accurate and up-to-date correspondence will help you make well-informed decisions for your family. Nothing is more important to us than the safety and health of our students, our employees and their families. When we work together, we can provide the best care for all involved.

Cassopolis Public Schools will continue to clean and disinfect surfaces inside all district schools, including the high school with possible exposure. 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.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath among other symptoms of illness or some have no symptoms. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, you are encouraged to contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Do not come to work or school until you are fever free for 3 days and it has been 10 days since you started feeling ill. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after exposure.

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

[michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://michigan.gov/coronavirus)

[vbcassdhd.org/coronavirus](https://vbcassdhd.org/coronavirus)

[CDC COVID-19 Information](#)

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

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.

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. A. 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:

- Call their primary care provider (PCP) via telephone
- Do a virtual visit with their health system/provider
- 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](http://www.bronsonhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19)

---

### **Ascension Borgess**

(833) 978-0649

[www.healthcare.ascension.org](http://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)