

COVID-19 Update from Adena Schools

Good Morning Adena Schools Community,

I want to provide an update on our COVID-19 status today, and answer some questions as well as clarify possible misconceptions regarding this information in the community at large.

As of posting this update, Adena Schools have the following statistics:

Positive Test Result- Active Cases

Elementary- 2

Middle School- 0

High School- 1

Quarantine- Due to Possible Exposure

Elementary- 7

Middle school- 4

High School- 5

We post this information on our district website regularly. You can find it under the menu button by clicking on "District" and then clicking on "COVID Data." As you can see, we aren't doing all that badly SO FAR. We need to remain vigilant and be careful not just at school but EVERYWHERE we go and in all the things we do outside of school. We can all do our part to slow the spread by avoiding unnecessary crowds and activities, maintaining social distancing, keeping the hand sanitizer handy when you are out running errands and washing hands frequently and thoroughly.

What's the difference between QUARANTINE and POSITIVE TEST RESULTS- ACTIVE CASES?

You will see several quarantined students because each time there is a test conducted an entire household is potentially exposed to COVID infection, and until the test results come back we have to keep everyone at home. If the test results come back negative the danger is averted, but we need the document from your medical provider stating it is safe to return to school. Testing sites provide the results to your primary care provider. The testing sites will not fax results to the school, but you can pick up a copy of results at the testing site in person with a valid ID to send back to the school with your child. If your results come back positive, we need to continue the quarantine for all students in the household until your healthcare provider clears your children to return to school.

How does contact tracing work?

With a positive test result, the health department would then begin contact tracing, and more students at school could be quarantined and tested depending on how much exposure there was until the positive test result was obtained. It is important to remember the health department will want to know everything starting 48 hours before the onset of symptoms occurred with your child. Your child's movements would be examined and then anyone within 6 feet of your child for at least 15 minutes or more could be considered at risk of exposure and possibly quarantined. Granted, this is not a fun way to have school, but it is what we have to do in order to have in-person learning.

What do we do when the annual allergies, colds, and "kid viruses" show up at our house?

Unfortunately, we have to be really careful this year and make sure it is only a cold, "kid virus" or allergy issue. You will have to consult more frequently with your medical providers to determine when there is a need for testing versus simply waiting for the symptoms to pass so your child can return to school. So, remember, when your child is sick- keep them home. If your child has a chronic allergy cough and other allergy-related symptoms, have their physician provide us with a letter clearing the student to attend

school. When they stop having a fever (72 hours free without meds) or their symptoms clear up, send them back. Be sure to communicate regularly with your child's school office.

What about truancy and excessive absence?

We know students will be absent more frequently this year. As long as we know what is going on we can keep you out of difficulty with "excessive absence" issues. Remember, COVID-19 doesn't mean you can just stay home, do nothing and never call in to report absence on a regular basis. We are still accountable to the laws of Ohio regarding school attendance and have to document absences. A note is still required to officially excuse your absences after they return to school. (Our auditors insist on this.) We know this will be an odd year with some students experiencing frequent absence. The school office will work with you to make sure you don't get into a difficult situation. As long as you have physician documentation to verify excessive absences you will be ok. The important thing is to communicate regularly with your child's school office personnel and keep them informed of what is going on. Our staff will help you and your child keep up with the work and make extended absences manageable.

Thank you for your efforts and support. Keep up the good work. Giving our children the opportunity to enjoy the "normalcy" of going to school is worth the extra efforts and the small temporary adjustments to our regular routines. We will get through this and we will celebrate our victory of COVID-19 before you know it. Have a great week and stay well! Together, for the sake of our children, we will remain Warrior Strong!

John Balzer,
Superintendent