

Saints Families,

Homecoming is upon us and we are happy to be celebrating this week under more normal timelines this school year. Students are having fun with their dress-up days, the Friday parade, and all the events that happen both inside and outside of the school day. With lots of things to do, I am writing to update today on our COVID numbers.

The district has started our testing program, to provide families with an opportunity to test when needed. This also allows the district to most closely monitor illness within the schools. Since the start of school, we have not seen major illness come into the schools. Just prior to school starting, we saw a little bump of 8 cases due to an outing that was held outside of school activities. These individuals quarantined, followed protocol, and were able to return to school and activities. Between September 11 and last Friday (9/24) we have seen a total of 6 positive cases, only 2 of the 6 were a spread between two classmates. The other 4 cases were spread from parents to children outside of school. Thankfully, these parents kept their children home when they felt symptoms so there wasn't a possibility of in-school spread.

Now that we have testing available, parents have elected to have their children tested when there are symptoms present. As of today, we've completed 65 tests. Right now, as a district, we only have 5 positive cases total. This shows us the amount of cold, flu, and allergies people are dealing with right now. I also do not want anyone to get a false feeling of safety by these numbers. We could easily see a spike if we do not continue to use distancing, hygiene procedures and face coverings (when necessary).

The weather is turning cooler and we will be moving to more inside activities. We know colds, flu, and COVID spread more easily when this happens. Please continue the COVID protocols so we may be able to continue to keep our schools and activities safe and open.

If you or your child has any symptoms, please keep them home and consider testing either with the school district or another provider. These tests will help stay open and safe. Yes, our numbers are low. As a school district and community it will take all of us working together to keep the numbers low.

I look forward to a great homecoming week. Please come out to cheer on the Saints in all of our activities this week.

In Saints pride,

Dr. Steven Heil, Superintendent