

August 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The second week of school is going smoothly and everyone seems to be back into the routine. This includes the routine for COVID-19 that we experienced last year. One of the issues that has happened several times is sending a child to school sick. Please do the health screening before you bring your child or put them on the bus. We have had instances already where a student came to school feeling sick and within hours went home to be tested for COVID and tested positive. Since the student rode the bus or came to school that required us to quarantine other students. We know that student achievement is dependent on being at school but not only does it affect your child when you send them sick, it affects other students. Please help us with this and be on the cautious side. Better for your child to only miss a day or the quarantine period then your child plus others because they had to be quarantined.

As I write this on Thursday our total number of positive cases for students and staff is 5. We have a total of 62 quarantined with 42 quarantined from being a close contact at school and 20 from being a close contact in the community.

Just a reminder that we are strongly encouraging you to follow the guidance that recommends mask wearing. We do believe that this is a decision that you as a parent should make but we are encouraging you to have your child wear a mask if possible. The guidelines for quarantine have changed now so that if the person that is positive and the close contact are both wearing a mask properly then the close contact does not have to quarantine. This is in addition to the other exceptions of having COVID within the last 90 days or having been vaccinated.

Please consider and research having your child vaccinated if they are age 12 and up. Currently, in our district only 27% of the population is vaccinated. This will not fully prevent a person from getting the virus but data does show that it reduces the chances of being hospitalized. Here is the list again of places providing the shots to children age 12 and up.

Lowery's Drug  
123 Central Ave.  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501-268-1900

Medical Center Pharmacy  
2900 Hawkins Dr.  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501-268-3311

Stotts Drug  
103 W. Arch (on the square)  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501-268-2536

Family Practice Associates  
3130 E. Race #100  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501-268-3232

Medic Sav-on Drug  
2806 E. Race  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501-268-4121

White Co. Health Department  
112 Brantley Rd.  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501-268-6102

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to deal with the ongoing situation of the virus.

Sincerely,  
Stan Stratton