



Oakland-Craig Public Schools

Junior-Senior High & Business Office Elementary School
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"Home of the Oakland-Craig Knights"

To: Oakland-Craig Public School Parents

From: Superintendent Jessica Bland

Date: August 27, 2021

Re: Covid-19 Update

We are off to a great start this school year and our students and staff are working hard both in and out of the classroom. It has been a joy to see students smiling and laughing with their friends, classmates, and teachers as we get back to what feels a little more normal, although not quite back to normal yet. While it has been nice to get back in the swing of things, I do want to keep you updated as to where we are at with illness in the district as well as our procedures for students that test positive or were in close contact to someone that has tested positive for Covid.

First, it will be no surprise to some that viral illness rates have increased. We have not yet had any positive Covid cases in our student or staff population. Last week, however, 3% of our student population was absent with other illnesses not related to Covid. This week we have 3.7% of our student population absent. While we have not yet had any positive cases in the district, we have seen an uptick across the community and would not be surprised if we begin seeing students test positive as well. Covid-related symptoms include sudden onset of cough or shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell. In addition, if a student has two of the following symptoms, we would encourage you to seek advice from your physician: a fever of 100.4 or above, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or fatigue. If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, please keep them home and if needed, seek advice or care from your physician.

In the event that your child tests positive for Covid, he/she will be required to isolate for 10 days from symptom onset. We are strongly encouraging unvaccinated close contacts to quarantine for 10 days after their last exposure to the Covid-positive individual. This will help slow the spread and keep our children in school. While we are currently encouraging close contacts to quarantine, we are not requiring this. Those that do quarantine; however, will be able to complete classwork online. Those that participate virtually while in quarantine will not have absences count against them. If your child has been exposed to a Covid-positive individual but chooses not to quarantine, we would then encourage him/her to wear a mask at school. Again, this is not a requirement but a recommendation at this time. If your child was exposed and classified as a close-contact he/she should monitor for Covid symptoms for 14 days. If they develop symptoms within that time period, we will require Covid-testing. If you prefer not to subject your child to testing in that scenario, he/she will be required to isolate for 10 days or provide a doctor's note stating the illness is not Covid-related. Please keep in mind that things change frequently and we get new information weekly, if not daily, so all plans and procedures are subject to change.

In addition to individual cases of Covid, we are also monitoring core groups of students in hopes to slow the spread of Covid. A core group includes classroom cohorts, grade

levels, activities, athletic teams, etc. In the event that one person in a core group tests positive for Covid, everyone that would be considered a close contact will be notified by the school and asked to self-monitor for 14 days. Masking will be encouraged but not required. If during that time frame another student in that same core group tests positive, close contacts will again be notified by the school. In this situation students will need to self-monitor for symptoms and will be asked to wear masks while in school, at school activities, events, etc. In the event that three or more students in a core group test positive for Covid, all close contacts will be notified by the school and likely required to quarantine if unvaccinated. This is something the health department will determine and put into motion. Our hope is that we don't have any core groups experience three or more positives but taking precaution, masking, distancing, etc. will help students stay in school. Of course, we do not have any of these precautions required at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation weekly and will update you as things change.

My goal is to communicate openly and honestly while still maintaining the privacy of our students and staff. In addition to the information above, I have summarized the information and enclosed an additional document in hopes to simplify things. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at jessbland@ocknights.org or 402-685-5661.

Educationally Yours,

Jessica L Bland

Jessica Bland
Superintendent