



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

465 South Union Street, Sparta, MI 49345
Peter W. Bush, Superintendent

Administration Offices

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November 23, 2021

Dear Spartan Parents & Families:

Since our last update, we have learned that seven (7) students at Sparta High School, six (6) students at Sparta Middle School, four (4) students at Applevew Elementary, and seven (7) students and two (2) staff members at Ridgeview Elementary have tested positive for COVID-19. We have completed the contact tracing process and have identified over 250 close contacts to these cases. We have notified all close contacts and will make sure they are aware of the current health department quarantine guidance. Parents of any close contacts should monitor their child closely for any symptoms of illness and report those symptoms to the school as soon as they occur.

Our community incidence rate (number of positive cases in the last 7 days) is now at its highest point during the pandemic. We have experienced an increase in cases among our student body, but nearly all cases continue to be traced back to transmission in the home, among family members, or outside of school. With the Thanksgiving holiday weekend approaching, we urge all students, staff, and families to use caution when gathering and do your best to limit the spread of this virus and other illnesses, so that we may return safely to school next week.

We will be offering PCR testing tomorrow morning (Wednesday) in our administrative offices from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m, but then will not resume testing again until Monday morning next week. Registration for PCR testing should be done prior to arrival using the link below. Please follow the instructions and wait in your vehicle upon arrival.

<https://bit.ly/kentschoolscalendar>

We will be offering our next vaccine clinic on Friday, December 3 from 4:15 to 7:00 p.m. at Ridgeview Elementary for those children ages 5-11 that received their first dose back on November 12. Cherry Health may also be able to offer the COVID booster for anyone 18 and over, as well as flu shots for any age. We will send out additional registration information and confirmation following the holiday break next week. Those children that received their first dose will not need to register for their second dose, and can arrive any time during the clinic.

The COVID Dashboard on our website continues to contain all required posting of information. To access the dashboard just click the banner on our website or use the link below:

<https://www.spartaschools.org/about/covid-19-dashboard/>

Our schools will be closed Wed-Fri for the Thanksgiving holiday but will reopen on Monday, November 29. Please be safe over the holiday weekend. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Sincerely,

Peter W. Bush, Superintendent