December 3, 2021

Dear Spartan Parents & Families:

We ended this week with two (2) students at Sparta High School, three (3) students at Sparta Middle School, seven (7) students at Appleview Elementary, and three (3) students at Ridgeview Elementary testing positive for COVID-19. We have completed the contact tracing process and have identified over 130 close contacts to these cases. We will notify all close contacts and 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.

With our return from Thanksgiving Break, we had a total of 57 positive cases reported among our staff and students this week, by far the highest numbers we have experienced throughout this pandemic. Our community incidence rate remains high, as do the rates in the communities around us. It remains highly recommended by the health department that masks be worn indoors at school and when engaging in any indoor activities outside of school. It remains required that masks are worn by all staff and students in grades PK-6th grade indoors, and for all staff and students PK-12 when on a school bus.

We will continue to implement our additional mitigation strategies which include encouraging social distancing, hand-washing and the use of sanitizer, respiratory etiquette, and the cleaning/disinfecting of the classrooms and high-touch surfaces. Our contract tracing continues to show that minimal transmission is happening while our students are in school, so we continue to feel it is safe to have our students in attendance for in-person learning. Please do not send your child to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness.

We will continue to offer rapid antigen and PCR testing daily in our administrative offices, at least through our winter break. Rapid antigen testing is only available for students and staff and will be conducted by our school nurses between 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-4:00 p.m. PCR testing is available from 8:30-11:00 a.m. daily and is open to anyone. 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.


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/

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation as we continue to navigate this surge in cases, and keep our schools open and as safe as possible for in-person instruction.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Bush, Superintendent