



May 7, 2021

Dear Northview families,

Earlier today, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) issued a press release which stated, “...*the Local Health Departments have advised the school districts within their jurisdictions that in consideration of current epidemiological trends, increasing vaccination coverage rates, and the availability of safe and effective vaccines, the Local Health Departments are not issuing county-wide orders requiring all school districts to comply with the MDHHS’ quarantine guidelines.*” Instead, the KCHD now recommends that districts, “...*use the MDHHS’ quarantine guidelines as best practices...*”

In plain language, this information means that the KCHD is no longer requiring student ‘close contact’ quarantines in many instances. With the information provided, we understand the following to be “best practices” and will adjust our quarantining practices according to the following:

1. Students who are identified as a close contact will not be required to quarantine, UNLESS they reside with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
2. Families will continue to be notified if their student is considered to be a ‘close contact’ with a positive case at school. However, unless the student becomes symptomatic or resides with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, they will not be required to quarantine.
3. Students must continue to complete the daily health screener. If a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay home from school.
4. Students that exhibit the symptoms of the virus in school will be sent home.

Students who are currently in quarantine may return to school on Monday, May 10, unless they were placed in quarantine by the KCHD because someone in their household tested positive for COVID-19 or become symptomatic.

We view this as a positive change for our students. Per the KCHD, the estimated number of students who tested positive after being identified as a close contact with a peer in school could be as low as 2%.

We also see this change as evidence that the mitigation strategies currently in place are working. These strategies include face coverings over the nose and mouth, cohorting students (particularly at lunch), washing hands, or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. All of these mitigation strategies will remain in place for the final 15 days of school.

Nobel Peace Prize winner and educational leader Nicholas M. Butler stated, “Optimism is the foundation of courage.” I am continually grateful for the optimism of Northview’s families, students, faculty, staff and administrators. That optimism has been ever present in the courage shown by all of you in completing this most challenging school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Korpak, Superintendent

