

## **2-22-21 CHS COVID UPDATE**

I am writing this email to give the parents and students an update on Covid at Cashmere High School and what we are doing.

We have had 7 students with positive Covid cases at Cashmere High School in the past two weeks. That means they are home and anyone who had close contact with them was also quarantined.

The good news is that after extensive contact tracing we can say that none of our students contracted the virus at school.

And none of the identified close contacts became ill with the virus.

We are still following our Mitigation Protocol and it is working at school:

- Daily Screening –
- Wearing Masks
- Hand washing stations
- Having students who display any symptoms staying home.

It is working.

We have 400 students back live in two sessions at CHS-

Our D and F list has been significantly reduced since we started our Hybrid face to face learning the week after Thanksgiving.

Our hands on Activity Classes like – Wood Shop, Ag. Shop, Horticulture, PE and Ceramics are busy and productive. Drama will soon premier the on line Musical the “Drowsy Chaperone.”

And we started Fall Sports last week with contests being played this weekend.

This Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM we will be having targeted conferences at the high school. We will contact parents of students who are struggling with learning during this time and set up conferences to form a plan to complete any Incompletes and bring any failing grades to passing. There will be no live school that day, only remote for all students in the morning. If you have not been contacted and would like to set up a conference for your student, please call the high school at 782-2914.

For those of you who have questions regarding how positive Covid cases are handled, below are the steps we follow.

### **Positive Covid protocols:**

When we have a positive in the district several things are immediately put into play.

- We use our district tracking document to start the investigation process. This helps us identify who may have been a close contact or in proximity (between six to twelve feet - or for Vale, in the same cohort/classroom). It also reviews various depts. to consider, such as transportation or support staff.
- We contact staff directly involved to provide us with information and seek out potential close contacts.
- Students/staff who are close contacts immediately go to one of our designated isolation spaces or they leave if able to do so. (This is a rare occurrence as most are already at home.)
  - Close contact is considered closer than six feet for a cumulative of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. This is a generalized rule and may depend on circumstances.
- We contact families of students in close contact or proximity and provide necessary information as well as offer guidance.
  - We only contact those who have been in close contact or proximity as we are doing our best to maintain a certain amount of privacy for those who have tested positive.
- We review safe return dates with those involved directly. Offer guidance and refer to HCP for follow up.
- We contact administration (typically Supt. and building specific admin).
- I contact Mr. Brown to update the district Covid dashboard.
- I complete a report for the DOH and send that to Stephanie Snitily (at DOH).
- If there is question or concern related to the incident either Supt. Johnson or I reach out to the DOH for further guidance on how to handle the situation.
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Bottom line is if a student or staff member are determined not at risk (no close contact or proximity to positive) or to have direct involvement then we do not contact them.

The bulk of the legwork is done by Adriana and Amber. We work very hard to mitigate risk to all others while maintaining privacy for those directly involved.

It is a time consuming and detailed process and we aim to handle things efficiently and professionally.

Amber Varrelman, RN

Cashmere School District Nurse

As always if you have any questions, please call the High School and ask for Mr. Boyle or Mr. Brown.

<https://youtu.be/phEEpoBkOBA>