



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

November 15th, 2020

Attention Ashby families:

On Friday, Ashby School was notified of two positive cases of covid-19, with one being an elementary student and the second being a staff member who works with multiple children in our school intervention program and after school program. That evening, a message went out to families whose student(s) were in close contact with either of the positive cases. We were quickly reminded how many people a single case can affect our school, let alone two, as the aforementioned cases resulted in the quarantining of sixty-five students and four staff members. Following guidance from Horizon Public Health and previous guidance from epidemiologists from the Minnesota Department of Health, all those who had close contact would be quarantined from school and all school functions for fourteen days from the last day of contact with each positive case.

This morning, Sunday, November 15th, the school was notified of another case involving another staff member and a middle school student. Investigations continue with this case to determine whether or not more students and staff will need to be quarantined.

We continue to feel that the mitigation strategies we have in place continue to be effective. With that being said, we found out this weekend how quickly things can change even when we are being cautious. Schools in our area continue to see staffing issues arise due to positive cases and close contacts within the staff. Along with that, we have now seen how quickly large sections of students can be affected by a single positive case.

Our goal continues to be to keep our students in school as long as we can, especially those who are in elementary school and those who need the most support in secondary school. Though the school continues to be proactive in our mitigations strategies, quick to respond to positive cases in students and staff, and careful in our planning from week to week, each day brings on new challenges which at some point COULD cause a quick change in our learning models.

We ask that families continue to be diligent in the precautions they are taking outside of school and to be honest about symptoms linked to covid-19. With case numbers going up, the school will be proactive in ensuring that students are prepared for distance learning should the situation arise quickly. We ask that families make plans for their child should we move into a more restrictive model.

Should you have any questions or concerns please call the school,

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School