

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF STEUBEN COUNTY

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August 10, 2020

Dear MSDSC Families,

I hope this letter finds everyone well and ready to start the school year. With in-person and virtual instruction beginning this Thursday, August 13th, I just wanted to touch base with you before we begin another year.

It has been a busy summer for our staff members. Summer school just wrapped up and was very successful. Our teachers have been busy making adjustments to accommodate both virtual learning and in-person instruction. They have reconfigured their classrooms to practice social distancing and adjusted their schedules to keep students in cohort groups. Lessons are currently being modified to meet the educational needs of all their students.

Our office staff in each school has been busy with student registration. The instructional assistants have taken on numerous tasks in preparation for the first day of school. Our custodians have been deep cleaning the buildings and implementing new sanitizing procedures. The food service staff has been preparing to serve nutritional meals in a variety of different locations under new guidelines. Our bus drivers have reconfigured some of their routes and have added seating charts. The administrators have worked all summer to fill open positions and plan for the upcoming year.

I simply cannot say enough about all the hard work and planning that has gone into preparing for this school year. I am very proud of the entire team of professional educators and support staff members at MSDSC.

Please be sure to send your child to school with a face mask. It is important that face masks are worn on the bus and upon entering the school. Once in the classroom, the teachers will have the discretion to allow students to remove their masks during in-person instruction. Strict procedures must be followed if this option is to take place.

It is imperative that you monitor your child's health and check for symptoms before they leave for school. Mild to moderate cold-like symptoms include a fever, cough, runny nose, tiredness, and vomiting. If your child does not feel well, keep them at home. The only way that we can stop the spread of COVID-19 is by keeping it from entering our schools. The safety of our students and staff members is our top priority.

Your cooperation and support are appreciated as we navigate through these challenging times. I am confident that we will be able to start school as planned this Thursday, we just need to make sure that we are all doing our part to keep the schools open throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Brent A. Wilson
Superintendent

Should my student come to school today?

<p>Current Statistics for Steuben County:</p>	<p>Source: https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm</p>
<p>Parent Screening Measures before a child leaves home (keep a child home if one or more symptoms not otherwise explained):</p>	<p>A fever of 100.4° F or greater • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell</p> <p>A child (or employee) should stay home from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 listed above based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained. Parents call and report absences if remaining home for this reason.</p>
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and NO COVID 19 test:</p>	<p>No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and • Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and • At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared. • Any student, teacher, administrator, or staff who is symptomatic for infection should stay home and consult their primary care provider or seek testing. The state website www.coronavirus.in.gov has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.</p>
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and testing negative for COVID 19:</p>	<p>Return when the fever has been gone for 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers or upon feeling better</p>
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and testing POSITIVE for COVID 19 with symptoms:</p>	<p>First: Notify your school immediately of any positive test. Also, call 260-668-1000 ext. 1500 immediately to report.</p> <p>Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and • Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and • At least 10 calendar days since their test without symptoms; or • The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.
<p>Return to school after having one symptom above and testing POSITIVE for COVID 19 asymptomatic:</p>	<p>Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten calendar days without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.</p>
<p>If someone in your home has symptoms or is being tested for COVID 19:</p>	<p>Students and employees should remain home for 72 hours if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. Parents and employees notify the school if someone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19.</p>
<p>If someone in your home has tested positive for COVID 19:</p>	<p>If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. This could be longer if the student becomes symptomatic. Return to school after documented infection with COVID-19 should be directed by the individual's health care provider. Parents and employees notify the school if someone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19.</p>