

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF STEUBEN COUNTY

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August 21, 2020

Dear MSDSC Families,

I just want to inform everyone that we have received two confirmed cases of COVID-19 from students at Ryan Park Elementary and two confirmed cases from students at Angola Middle School. The principals, Mrs. Heavin and Mr. Bounds, immediately implemented our contact tracing plan to identify people who were in direct contact with these students. Direct contact is defined as being within six feet of a person with a confirmed case for more than fifteen minutes. Parents of those students that fall into this category have been notified that their children will need to be quarantined at home for ten days to watch for symptoms. Virtual lessons will be provided to these students so they do not fall behind in their studies.

We have been working closely with the Steuben County Health Department to plan for a scenario like this one. Contact tracing is the key to quickly identifying and isolating those people affected so we can safely continue to hold in-person classes. In this situation, 28 students, 2 instructional assistants, and 2 teachers were considered to be in close contact with the confirmed students in the classrooms. Fourteen students were in close contact on the school bus. Out of an abundance of caution, they will all be under quarantine until they can safely return to school.

I want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. People who display symptoms are promptly sent home so their health can be monitored outside of the school setting. Confirmed cases will be handled as previously discussed so affected students can be isolated to protect other students and staff members. Assigned seating and cohort grouping of students has definitely proven to be effective in this situation. Our local health department has been a valuable resource for guidance on contact tracing and quarantine procedures.

We will continue to be diligent in all our efforts to keep our students and staff members safe while keeping our schools open for in-person instruction. Your support is always appreciated as we work through each unique situation.

Sincerely,



Brent A. Wilson
Superintendent