

WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT



October 18, 2020

Dear Whitnall In-Person Learning Families:

Over the past couple weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of students and staff in the high school who have been quarantined. In reviewing the data, we can point to two significant factors for this increase.

First, we have had students who have been quarantined due to a family member who has tested positive. While the student is on quarantine, the student tests positive, some with or without symptoms. The student is returning at the end of the quarantine due to no symptoms. However, since the student becomes positive, an additional isolation period would extend the time away from school. Because the student has returned to school too early, we have been required to do contact tracing and it has resulted in students and staff becoming quarantined unnecessarily. Please contact our district nurse, Brea Sanders, RN, before returning to school from a quarantine, isolation, or illness with COVID-like symptoms. You may reach her at 414-467-8661 or bsanders@gmail.com. Below is a summary of the conditions in which a student may return to school:

[Identified COVID-19 Symptoms: Return to School for Students](#)

Second, we are not practicing physical distancing to the best of our ability. We are doing a good job with mask wearing. Mask wearing will deter the transmission of the virus but will not keep an individual out of quarantine. At the end of this past week, we met with staff to review current procedures and areas for improvement. Teachers will be making changes in classrooms which include moving larger classes to larger spaces in the building when possible, using additional spaces such as hallways, increasing awareness of the 6 feet 15 minutes criteria, and analyzing physical furnishings in classrooms. This next week, we will be reteaching students the precautionary measures with an emphasis on physical distancing.

Starting on Monday, we are rearranging the cafeteria and multipurpose space furniture for lunches to be more physically distanced. Freshman will have lunch tables with the middle seats sectioned off. Sophomores will be three to a table maximum and will have some of the extra tables and tall chairs removed. The cafeteria will only have eight lunch tables with middle seats sectioned off. We are still finalizing a system to more easily identify who is at each table.

Study halls will be in the auditorium, leaving every other row empty with at least two seats between. The study hall supervisor will be moving around to enforce precautionary measures. We will also be considering moving some furniture into hallways to maximize use of space available.

Overwhelmingly, staff, students, and families who are in person would like to stay open. We need to be ALL IN to make this a possibility. Reinforce with your child the importance of their behaviors and the ability to stay open. We thank you for your partnership in our efforts to stay safe to stay open.

Lisa L. Olson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Charles Tollefsen, M.A. Ed.
Whitnall High School Principal

Brea Sanders

Brea Sanders, RN
District Nurse