

Herscher Community Unit School District No. 2

DR. RICHARD S. DECMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
SHELLY PARSONS, SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
PETE FALK, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

11/05/20

Re: **Up-date #9** on **Positive** COVID-19 diagnoses

Herscher School Community Unit No. 2,

The district has been closely monitoring the health and safety of our staff and students. We have become aware during the past week that at least (1) faculty member at Bonfield Grade School, Herscher Intermediate School, Limestone Middle School and at HHS have been diagnosed with COVID-19. In addition to this, we were made aware that a student at BGS and HIS have also tested positive for COVID-19. These cases are not linked to one another. As a result, the district has notified and will require any individuals (staff and/or students) that are determined to be a "close contact" to quarantine at home for (14) days. The CDC defines "close contact" as "any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes cumulative within a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

The last time the COVID-19 positive person(s) depending on which case were in the school setting while they were contagious were either Monday, November 2nd or Thursday, November 5th. Please understand that we cannot disclose the name of the person(s) diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.

So far, in total this school year, the District has had (8) confirmed faculty/staff members with COVID-19 and (30) confirmed students with COVID-19. Currently, there are (23) faculty/staff members who are excluded/isolated and approximately (110) students who are excluded/isolated from school not counting the high school.

In order for buildings to be closed, one of the following must occur:

- Kankakee County Health Department recommends such closure.
- There is an outbreak occurring within the school (See IDPH guidelines for definition of an outbreak). So far, all cases have not occurred within the schools with the possible exception of one which why HHS was closed.
- We do not have enough faculty/staff to "run" the building due to quarantining or positive COVID-19 tests and/or other reasons. Ex. Other illnesses or reasons for absences.

Considering the diagnosis of COVID-19, all areas of the building and/or classroom(s) potentially impacted are or have been cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the recommendations from the CDC and IDPH.

Please remember to keep your student home if they are ill for any reason. If you have any questions, please contact your building Principal. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID-19 prevention policies and procedures as we work together to keep our students, staff and families safe and healthy.

Dr. Richard S. Decman, Superintendent

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