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November 6, 2020

This afternoon we had notification of presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 within a grade level on the high school campus and within two grade levels on the elementary campus, totaling 3 cases with one student in each of those grade levels. Parents of the students in those grade levels or cluster have been notified by the respective campus principal. We have reason to believe that exposure was minimal as the students have not been at school in the past couple of days and were not symptomatic at the time. As we head into the weekend, we encourage you to keep a close eye on your student for any symptoms and consult a physician if you child exhibits symptoms related to COVID-19.

As I keep in close contact and seek guidance from local health officials, we understand that people are looking for definitive answers for each scenario associated with COVID-19. In dealing with each scenario there is not a one size fits all solution for each case as each scenario presents different aspects and challenges. Clarendon CISD, along with guidance from local health officials, seeks to keep the health and safety of our students and faculty at the forefront with minimal disruption to the educational process as well as that of our families. We want to work in concert with our parents and offer choices when the opportunity presents itself with different COVID-19 scenarios as we navigate this unpredictable virus.

Quarantining an individual or individuals will be based on the request of a physician or the determination of Clarendon CISD with input from local health officials. If your student's grade level has been at risk of exposure, you will be notified by the campus principal and apprised of the plan for that particular scenario. Otherwise, "self-quarantining" should not occur and students should continue to receive face to face in person instruction unless advised by a doctor or is part of Clarendon CISD's mitigation plan for exposure scenarios. Changing to remote learning can only occur at the start date of a Six Weeks Grading Period unless students are quarantined by a physician's note or approved by Clarendon CISD.

Please continue to encourage good hand washing practices, the use of hand sanitizer, social distancing, and even the use of masks if the grade level of your child does not require it. The local clinic now has the ability to administer the rapid COVID-19 antigen test. We feel like this will help mitigate the spread if we can determine possible contact points within Clarendon CISD.

As always, we appreciate you allowing us to educate your children and thank you for working with us throughout this pandemic. It takes all of us to ensure the success of the district and we are glad you are our partners.

Respectfully, Jarod Bellar