



MOUNT VERNON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 2, 2020

Mount Vernon Families and Staff:

The purpose of this letter is to share that a student at Mount Vernon High School has recently tested positive for COVID-19. The District has again been working closely with local public health officials to assist with contact tracing related to this case. The student and the family are following guidelines put forth by Linn County Public Health. Based on the contact tracing for this student, any close contacts are currently quarantining at home. **Again, if you have not been contacted or are not contacted in the next few hours, your child is not a close contact to the student who has tested positive.**

As I shared earlier, when we become aware of a positive case involving a student or staff member, we immediately contact Linn County Public Health for guidance. Contact tracing is then completed; with the tracing going back forty eight hours from the time of symptoms being evident, or a positive test result reported. For this latest case, contact tracing was completed for the forty eight hours prior to the report of symptoms. The new guidelines shared with you in a letter from me last week outlined new approaches in determining contact tracing based on the wearing of face coverings by students. This has allowed for fewer students being identified as close contacts in classroom settings.

You are receiving this communication because we remain committed to being transparent with you, and making you aware of the situation so you have an increased awareness and can respond accordingly. Upon the advice of local public health officials, we ask that parents/guardians continue to monitor their student's health; that employees continue to monitor their own health; and that every individual remain home if they exhibit any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and any other symptoms identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) set out at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

Thanks again for your assistance and support.

Greg Batenhorst, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Mount Vernon Community School District

"Promoting Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics"

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