



MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 18, 2020

Mount Vernon Families and Staff:

Thank you for all you continue to do to assist us in keeping everyone safe in the era of COVID-19. We knew that this would be a challenging year, and that positive tests would be a part of our lives. I am writing to you today to make you aware that the Mount Vernon Community School District recently confirmed that a student at Mount Vernon High School has tested positive for COVID-19. The District has been working closely with local public health officials to assist with contact tracing related to this case. This contact tracing includes tracing related to possible close contact in the classroom setting, and on the Freshman-Sophomore football team. Any individuals who have been identified as having "close contact" (as defined by local and state public health officials) with the individual who tested positive have received a separate communication regarding necessary procedures. **If you did *not* receive a separate communication, then you or your child have *not* been identified as having "close contact" with the individual.**

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. We then went back to all classes and activities attended by the student to determine who may have been within six feet of the student for fifteen consecutive minutes. This is the process that was used to determine who should quarantine given the investigation. Each situation is unique, and the partnership of the District and Linn County Public Health is a strong one.

You are receiving this communication because we are committed to remaining transparent with you and making you aware of the situation immediately 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>.



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We want to assure our school community that the safety and well-being of our students and staff members is our top priority. We will continue to be diligent in following the latest guidance from local, state, and federal public health agencies to keep our community as safe as possible. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

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

“Promoting Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics”

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