



DISCOVER YOUR NEW HEIGHTS



To the families of Cuyahoga Heights School District,

I am writing to notify you that today we received notification of three positive COVID-19 tests with our High School students.

One of those students was in class last Friday. In accordance with the guidance provided by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, our administrators followed the student's schedule and sent home any student or staff member that was within 6' of the positive student for 15 minutes or more. Again, we are

following all guidance from the County, and those students and staff will be quarantined 14 days from last Friday.

It is important to note that this positive case has been traced back to at least one gathering that was held on Halloween. We understand that there may have been several student gatherings on Halloween, and we are now attempting to determine if more than one of these gatherings resulted in positive COVID-19 tests.

To reiterate what the Governor has previously stated: we are doing everything in our power to keep our students and staff members safe in school through aggressive mitigation protocols [social distancing, masks, hand hygiene, and facility sanitization] to prevent the spread of the virus.

Both the Governor and Lt. Governor commended school districts throughout the state for their mitigation efforts, but they also cautioned that **social gatherings have been a primary source of the spread of the virus -- just as we have experienced here.**

I am asking you to support our efforts to keep students in school and safe by reinforcing the safety protocols as recommended by the Governor and Lt. Governor, both in the community and at home:

- **Wearing a mask** when socializing with individuals who reside outside of your home (including relatives and friends);
- **Thorough and frequent hand washing**, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and

warm water;

- **Using hand sanitizer** when hand washing is not an option;
- **Sanitizing high-touch areas** of your home, automobile, and technology;
- **Maintaining recommended social distancing of at least 6 feet** between yourselves and any individual who does not reside in your home; and
- **Avoiding social gatherings** in which the above protocols cannot be followed with fidelity

My goal has always been to keep our students and staff in our schools so long as it is safe to do so. And we need to continue to stay the course with those protocols to ensure we can keep students and staff in our building safely.

It is important to notify us immediately if your student or a family member tests positive. Just last week one person was made aware of a positive test and did not notify us, putting people unnecessarily at risk. If we had been notified right away, we could have begun immediate contact tracing, effectively reducing the number of students required to be placed in quarantine.

If someone in your home -- either a student or adult -- tests positive for COVID-19 or is exhibiting symptoms, please contact my secretary, Tracy Deal at tdeal@cuyhts.org. If your students are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms please **keep them home until they are 24 hours symptom free.**

Symptoms in children can include any of the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomachache
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Poor appetite or poor feeding, especially in babies under 1 year old

Several districts in our area have had to move to remote learning recently due to outbreaks among students and/or staff. We don't want that to happen here in Cuyahoga Heights.

We appreciate all you do to help us to keep our staff and students in our buildings.

Thanks,

Tom Evans

THE CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOLS

Elementary School

Middle School

High School

