



Russell Independent Schools

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M. SEAN HORNE
Superintendent

October 15, 2020

Russell Family,

I wanted to give a follow-up as to how the District handled the positive COVID-19 case yesterday. At approximately 9:40 a.m. the Greenup County Health Department (GCHD) contacted our District Health Coordinator and myself to inform us that we had one student at Russell Middle School test positive for COVID-19. This student has a sibling who the Health Department deemed an "assumed positive" as well. RMS Principal Mr. Moore and District Health Coordinator Mrs. Bates pulled seating charts for each of the student's classes and school bus. This information was given to the Nurse Administrator at the GCHD. Using this information, GCHD determined 'close contacts' of the students and directed Mr. Moore and Mrs. Bates to contact the parent/guardian of each of those students. In total, 13 students were directed by the GCHD to begin a 14-day quarantine. One Teacher was also directed to quarantine and that teacher left school as well. Every close contact had left the school before 12:00 p.m. Mr. Moore and/or Mrs. Bates spoke with each student and parent/guardian before he/she left the school. Contact tracers from the GCHD contacted each family by 4:00 p.m. giving them further instructions. Our teachers and custodial staff continued their cleaning protocols through the end of the day. After school we had additional custodians come to RMS to deep clean and sanitize the entire building.

I know that we have had some questions about how 'close contacts' are defined. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a close contact as "someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated". As I understand it, this applies regardless of whether an individual has on any type of facial covering.

This morning I met with our Principals to discuss the protocols that we have in place and what we can do better. Our Principals, Custodial, Transportation and Maintenance Staff have worked tirelessly to prepare our buildings, our Teachers have completely readjusted their mode of instruction and our Cafeteria Staff have worked hard to make sure that delicious and nutritious meals are available for students and staff. It truly takes a team effort and I am proud of our team!

Red Devil Nation, we all must continue to do what we can to curb the spread of this virus. Please continue to follow public health guidelines including wearing a facial covering, frequent hand washing and maintaining appropriate social distancing. We will get through this together!

Sincerely,

Dr. M. Sean Horne
Superintendent