



SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT- 1/15/2021

POSITIVE CASES

In the past eight (8) days, we have had two staff members at Rouses Point Elementary and two students (one at each elementary school) diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19). As stated in a previous Superintendent Announcement, staffing can become a challenge. A single positive case in our schools requires the Health Department to quarantine between 3 and 10 staff members, causing significant gaps in staffing. We are thankful that the staff from the Middle/High School and the Transportation Department responded swiftly to fill these vacancies so we could keep our elementary buildings open. The district would also like to send thanks to our elementary staff for being flexible and supportive as changes had to be made.

OUR SCHOOLS

Our elementary schools will remain OPEN for in-person learning.

The middle and high school will CONTINUE LEARNING REMOTELY from January 19, 2021 through January 22, 2021.

While we are committed to having all grades receive in-person learning, we know that keeping our elementary schools open is critical. Students in the Middle/High School have more experience with technology and, with the exception of a few of our younger middle schoolers, do not require childcare. Remote learning for our elementary grades creates serious challenges for both students and their families. Important foundational education, such as reading, is much more difficult through remote learning, and students can struggle for many years to make up the gaps. We must do everything possible to safely keep our youngest learners in school.

SICK

If your child is sick, or has been around someone that has been sick, please **DO NOT** send him/her to school. Even the mildest symptoms such as a runny nose, coughing, sneezing, scratchy or sore throat requires your child not to report to school. If your child experiences common symptoms during a typical time of the year, now is not the time to send them to school. Please visit your healthcare provider for further guidance if you have concerns. It's important to follow these requests at **ALL TIMES** as our overall priority is keeping **ALL** of our students and staff safe.

PLAN AHEAD

It is important for families to begin planning for alternatives should we need to close our district for a period of time. We understand childcare may be an issue for our younger students, so we encourage our families to start planning ahead. We are committed to providing updates as quickly as possible. However, we can only make decisions based on available information. For example, we are scheduled to have in-person instruction for our elementary students on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. However, if the district is informed of several positive cases over the weekend that create staffing challenges, we may not be able to notify families about an elementary school or district closure until late in the weekend.

FUTURE

This upcoming week will be important as we analyze the local impact of positive cases on our staffing. The good news is, as of now, all of the classrooms in our elementary buildings will be back in session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

The safety and security of our students is always our main goal and our district will continue working with the Health Department to ensure we are making the best possible decisions. We also take pride in being transparent with our families while maintaining the confidentiality of those involved. We remain Cougar Strong!