

September 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, Governor DeWine has issued an Order Requiring Reporting and Notification Regarding COVID-19 cases in K-12 Schools. St. Hilary School has been, and will continue to be, in compliance with this order each and every time there is a COVID-19 case within our school.

The order states that:

Beginning September 8, 2020, parents or guardians should notify the school within 24 hours of receiving a positive test or a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19 in a student or family member, whether that student is an in-person learner or a distance learner. Please call the school office at 330-867-8720, ext. 223 or 224 if your child or another member of your household receives a positive test or a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19.

Within 24 hours after receiving notification of a COVID-19 positive student, the school will notify school parents and guardians and staff about that case in writing via mass email, providing as much information as possible without releasing protected health information. St. Hilary School has exceeded this expectation by notifying school parents and guardians and staff about positive cases within just a few hours of receiving the notification and personally contacting those directly affected.

Within 24 hours the school must also notify the local health department. Again, St. Hilary School has exceeded this expectation by making this our first call upon receiving notification of a positive case and completing follow-up reporting within just a few hours of receiving the notification and contacting those directly affected.

Beginning September 15, 2020, local health departments will report the number of newly reported and cumulative cases to the Ohio Department of Health every Tuesday. The Ohio Department of Health will publish this data by school or school district, including a breakdown by students and staff, every Thursday. The website is www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Our goal is to work together with our students, staff and parents to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment that will enable us to continue in-person learning for as long as possible. Here are some ways you can help us achieve this goal:

Be proactive about reducing the number of interactions that students and staff have with one another by practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart) to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition to physical distancing, these important tools help to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wear a mask or face covering while in public places or if people who don't live with you must visit your home.

- Avoid unnecessary gatherings with people who don't live in your home.
- Avoid sharing food, drinks, or utensils.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Sing the Happy Birthday song twice to help know when it has been 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and wash your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve, not your hands, to cover coughs and sneezes. If you are experiencing cough or congestion, consider staying home and seeking medical care.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cleaning of frequently touched surfaces with household cleaners and EPA-registered disinfectants that are appropriate for the surface, following label instructions. A simple bleach solution may also be utilized.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

Thank you once again for partnering with us in this unprecedented effort. Every action you take and every decision you make counts and plays a role in our ability to continue to provide an in-person learning experience for as many students as possible, for as long as possible. We truly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Woodman
Principal