

November 19, 2020

Parents & Staff,

Today, the Toledo Lucas County Health Department announced a [health advisory](#) to help curtail the recent rapid spread of COVID-19 in Lucas County and throughout our state. The advisory, in effect immediately through December 17 states in part, “Residents are advised only to leave home to go to work or school or for essential needs such as medical care, groceries, medicine, and food pickup.”

I know this news comes at a time when many are already tired, stressed, and overwhelmed by the ongoing pandemic. But as I said last week, Maumee City Schools will continue to look at both community data and district-specific data and make decisions based on what is best for our district. While it is true that the virus continues to spread, and we need to take the actions we know will slow it down, it is also true, as Governor DeWine has repeatedly stated, schools continue to be one of the safest places for a community’s young people to be. At this time **we remain committed to staying open for in-person instruction based on our data.**

Additionally, after looking at data from across northwest Ohio, it appears that the modality of school (online, hybrid, in-person) does not have a strong correlation with COVID cases. Overall, schools that are 100% online have similar COVID positive case percentages to us as do those on a hybrid model, and in many cases, the percentage of positive cases is higher than what we are experiencing. Again, at this time, we do not feel compelled to stop providing in-person instruction based on our data.

Two-Hour Delayed Start School Day Scheduled on Monday, November 30

The entire school district will operate on a two-hour delayed start schedule on Monday, November 30. Teachers and staff will report to work but students will begin their school day two-hours later than on a normal school day. Doing so will provide us the opportunity to ensure we are aware of any health concerns that may have surfaced over Thanksgiving Break as well as time to follow up with students and parents who have or are quarantined to determine if any health or educational supports may be needed.

Have Childcare Plans in Place if the Need to Go Online Becomes Necessary

If the school district would be ordered to transition to 100% online classes by either the state/local health department, or if our district data indicates we need to close, we will provide parents with as much advance notice as we possibly can.

It is important to understand that if we need to cancel classes for just one classroom of students, an entire school, or the entire district because of a wide-spread quarantine or lack of professional teaching and support staff, this cancellation could be with less than 24-hours notice. Parents are asked to have childcare plans in place should we quickly need to pivot to online learning for any/all students.

Current COVID-19 Data for Maumee City Schools

As of today, here are the Maumee City Schools COVID numbers:

- Staff COVID positives this week - 2 (0.5%.) Total staff currently isolating - 4 (1.1%)
- Student COVID positives this week - 3 (0.15%). Total students currently isolating - 8 (.4%)
- New staff quarantines this week - 4 (1.1%). Total staff currently quarantining - 8 (2.3%)
- New student quarantines this week - 40 (2.0%). Total students currently quarantining - 107 (5.5%)
- 94.1% of Maumee students are still able to attend school and the overall attendance rate, adjusted for absences of those in a quarantine/isolation, remains higher than 90%.
- 96.6% of Maumee staff are able to come to work as less than 4% are currently in isolation/quarantine.
- 0% of the students who have had to quarantine due to a possible exposure at school/bus/extracurricular activity have contracted COVID from that possible exposure.

While I hope we will all enjoy a safe, healthy and restful holiday with friends, family and loved ones, I implore you to consider the amount of travel and social activity in the coming weeks and the number of individuals attending gatherings. This is not the time to let our guard down. We must follow all COVID-19 safety measures – always wear a mask, maintain physical distance, avoid crowds, and increase handwashing. We can take these precautions and still have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Recent announcements related to vaccines are encouraging and I believe they represent a light at the end of the tunnel. We will get through this pandemic by working together. Thanks again for your patience and understanding.

Todd Cramer, Superintendent