



In the pursuit of excellence...

Caledonia Community Schools

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Dear Caledonia Schools Community,

We hope you're staying healthy and safe. On behalf of Caledonia Community Schools, I wanted to take a moment to reiterate the importance of remaining diligent and taking safety precautions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

As cases rise again in Kent County, it's more important than ever to follow guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Kent County Health Department](#) (KCHD). I'm joining [school leaders across West Michigan](#), urging our community to follow safety protocols to slow the spread of COVID-19 and avoid additional school closures. According to the KCHD, every person with a positive case of COVID-19 that goes undetected has the potential to infect 3.5 people around them. In other words, they have the potential to make an already bad situation even worse.

It has also come to our attention that some CCS students may have made efforts to either hide or not disclose possible COVID-19 symptoms as a result of perceived peer pressure or fear of retaliation from fellow students. We urge parents and guardians to talk to their children about the importance of protecting their fellow classmates and community by being transparent and forthright on this matter. And we will not tolerate intimidation or retaliation aimed at any student who tries to come forward with pertinent health information.

Please encourage your student to be honest and transparent if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms. For the health and safety of themselves and those around them, please have them stay home and take the extra step to get tested. Remember that reporting a COVID-19 case is completely confidential.

CCS appreciates those who have taken quick steps to alert health officials of COVID-19 cases and have acted swiftly to remove their students from school to protect others.

We are all partners in keeping our community safe. We must work together to fight the spread of COVID-19. Part of that fight means encouraging and supporting each other in being forthright and transparent and creating an atmosphere where it's OK to share information. I know I've said it before, but I truly believe we will emerge even stronger from this challenging situation.

Thank you for your help and support,

Dr. Dedrick Martin

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