

CHIPPEWA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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12/3/2020. COVID-19 Update:

Dear Students, Families, Staff and Community,

I truly appreciate everyone's cooperation during this pandemic and understanding that we are in a position that we need to react to new information and the trends with COVID-19 in our school system. I find it important to emphasize our decision to move remotely was not taken lightly and one in which we attempted to avoid. Staffing shortages created issues to effectively maintain our operations at school and moving to online learning was not a direct result of COVID-19 transmission/outbreak in our buildings.

With so many unknowns regarding COVID-19 we asked students and staff to stay home if they were sick to avoid an outbreak in our schools, plus we had to quarantine staff for close or potential contact and some needed to care for family members. Unfortunately, the number of absences rose to the point we were unable to staff our schools properly. We were managing our in-person learning extremely well and our percentages of staff and student positive infections were around 1-2%. The tremendous stress faced by administrators and staff to maintain the school building operations was growing at a rapid rate with less staff to operate educationally.

As of today, 13 members of the Chippewa Staff are not working in the schools for a variety of legitimate reasons. A majority of these people are COVID Positive or quarantined due to exposure to a positive COVID case. We recently discovered that our Boys Basketball Team participated in a contest against a team that had a member test positive a few days after our contest. Because of this positive case, our High School Boys Basketball Team is quarantined for two weeks. I am sure all of you realize that having any of these people in our school buildings could have led to an outbreak.

Our goal, when we announced our 14 day of online learning for students, was to allow parents as much lead time as possible to re-arrange their schedules. We chose this option over waiting to the point where we couldn't operate the school building(s) and were forced move to remote with little notice to parents. I communicate daily with the Wayne County Health Department and they are reporting surging cases in our community. Please visit their website to see these increases. www.wayne-health.org

We believe that in-person learning is best for all students and we hope to bring healthy students back to school on January 4, 2021. Our goal is to finish the school year without any further interruptions. I hope this letter clarifies any questions about an outbreak in the schools and a better understanding of the need to move to online instruction.

Sincerely,

Todd S. Osborn, Superintendent
Chippewa Local Schools