



WEST IRON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
601 Garfield Avenue



Iron River, Michigan 49935

CHRISTOPHER THOMSON
Superintendent

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November 12, 2020

Dear West Iron County Parents, Staff and Community Members:

We received notification from Dickinson-Iron District Health Department that someone associated with our school district – an employee from West Iron County (Elementary employee) – has tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the person involved, we believe it is best to communicate transparently with you so you can make well-informed decisions for your family.

There is nothing more important to West Iron County than the safety and health of our students, our staff and their families. We are working directly with county health officials to address this situation. They have recommended we share the following with you: If you or your student is identified as a close contact and needs to quarantine, you will be notified by the health department. If you are not identified as a close contact, you will not hear from them.

COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets. As more cases are being confirmed across the region, including in our community, it is important to be sensible, but to also be vigilant. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, please contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after exposure.

West Iron County School will continue to clean and disinfect surfaces inside all district schools. As more cases are being confirmed across the region, it is important to remain vigilant. The CDC recommends the following best practices to help prevent the spread of this global pandemic:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Stay at home, if possible.
- If you must go out, practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.
- Avoid gatherings that include more than 10 people.

If you would like to learn more about COVID-19, the following links are reliable and accurate sources for information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

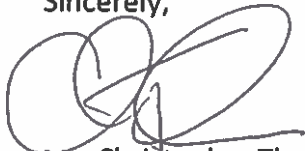
www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

www.didhd.org

Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff and community members. Please continue to take necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. I encourage everyone to remain calm and to be empathic and respectful to those affected.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. Thank you for your support of West Iron County School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Thomson', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. Christopher Thomson,
Superintendent