



# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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November 19, 2020

Dear Mercer Families,

We would like to thank you for all of your efforts in keeping our building nurses informed when you or your families have a question or concerns regarding COVID-19, when you or your family have been exposed or have received a positive COVID-19 test result. It truly is helpful for the District to be informed of what is happening with our students and their families when it comes to this pandemic.

While all buildings will be closed to students for in-person instruction and extracurricular activities Monday, November 16, 2020 through Monday, November 30, 2020, our nurses will continue to collect data to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the Mercer Area School District.

As you continue to monitor your child's health and the health of your family for COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that you contact your child's physician if you believe they are exhibiting symptoms or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19. Your doctor, in consultation with public health officials, will determine appropriate care and whether testing is necessary. In addition, please continue to contact your school nurse if you suspect that you have contracted COVID-19 or are being tested for the virus. The nurses can be contacted via the following email addresses and phone extensions:

Jill Bello, Mercer Middle/High School: [jbello@mercer.k12.pa.us](mailto:jbello@mercer.k12.pa.us) (724) 662-5104 ext. 21

Beth Ellison, Mercer Elementary School: [bellison@mercer.k12.pa.us](mailto:bellison@mercer.k12.pa.us) (724) 662-5102 ext. 3025

Since the Middle/High School and Elementary School buildings have been closed, we have received continued communication from parents and staff members indicating positive test results. These communications continue to allow the district to forward contact tracing lists to the PA DoH to reduce the community spread and exposure to the virus. To that end, we are hoping all quarantines and isolations will be completed, 10 and 14 days respectively, by the conclusion of the Thanksgiving break.

However, only through the diligence following of mitigation efforts meant to reduce the spread of COVID-19 can we hope to return and stay in school for students to receive in-person instruction. Responsible social distancing and safety practices outside of school will increase our opportunities to return our students and staff to our school buildings. If we ALL do our part to protect our tight-knit community to future spread, while in home environments, we can get the students back into the school environment.

Your child's health and safety are of utmost importance to us as we work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school community.

We hope that you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving while remembering to protect what we value, which is having Mercer students back in our schools.

Stay Safe,

*Ronald Rowe*

Ronald Rowe - Superintendent

*The Mercer Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, age, handicaps, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational or employment policies.*