

November 5, 2020

Dear Chatfield Families,

As you know positive cases of Covid-19 in Michigan are on the rise. From the first week of October to the last week of October daily positive cases have tripled. This wave of increased Covid-19 cases reminds us that we need to remain cautious and proactive as we navigate the pandemic.

For the time being in-person instruction will continue. However, families must be prepared should a group of students be required to quarantine or should schools be required to close for a period of time. We encourage you to have a plan in place for what will happen if your child needs to stay home and participate in remote learning while you are working.

Over the past two months as positive cases have risen, we have learned some lessons we would like to share with you. Chances are this information will be beneficial to all families.

- Gatherings of large non-immediate family groups create a higher risk for potential exposure and have resulted in outbreaks.
- If non-immediate-family groups are unable to maintain social distance, they should be wearing masks - even outside. Whenever social distancing is not maintained these non-immediate-family groups should wear a mask.
- When inviting a guest into your home, like a repairman, require them to wear a mask and to describe if they have had any exposures to Covid-19 recently.
- Parental exposure in the workplace has created a need for families to quarantine. Be aware of this.
- Parents need to be diligent and continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Parents need to keep students home when symptoms are present and then an additional 24 hours symptom free.
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices can prevent outbreaks.
- We must be respectful of people's privacy when a case of Covid-19 is diagnosed. It is important not to speculate or gossip. Allow the school to communicate with families as needed. Additionally, we must work to destigmatize diagnosis of Covid-19.

We will redouble our effort to ensure safe practices at Chatfield through face coverings, social distancing, fresh air exchange, cohorting groups, temperature monitoring, and increased sanitization protocols. We ask that you do your part and reflect on your family's practices



-A Public School Academy-

231 Lake Drive · Lapeer, Michigan 48446 · (810)667-8970 · Fax (810)667-8983
www.chatfieldschool.org

related to Covid-19. One's point of view on Covid and threshold for personal risk are immaterial: our school will revert to remote learning if we encounter cases and quarantines commensurate with other schools in the state. Proactive practices to mitigate the spread of Covid both in student and staff homes matters and will impact our ability to remain in-person for instruction.

The pandemic has taught us to treasure every moment we have together in person. We have enjoyed the past ten weeks of in-person instruction with your child(ren) and would like for it to continue. Please remain diligent and safe.

Sincerely,

Matt Young,
Co-Director

Bill Kraly,
Co-Director



We ask that we all work together with our children to achieve the common goal of keeping everyone safe. First, we require that each family do a simple student screening at home prior to coming to school. If your child has any of the following symptoms that indicate a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and/or put them at risk for spreading illness to others we require that you follow the protocols described below:

Symptoms

Section one

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for student with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Sudden loss of taste or smell

Section two

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19: OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions in Section One, but **NO** to all the questions in Section Two, keep your child(ren) home from school until the following are fulfilled: for fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications; sore throat/ cough: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken); diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours; severe headache: improvement in headache.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions in Section One AND **YES** to any of the questions in Section Two Call your healthcare provider right away to get evaluated and tested for COVID-19. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to www.mi.gov/coronavirustest or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms:

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

If your child is removed from school due to these symptoms the school is requiring a Doctor's Note stating when the child can return to school. We know that many of these symptoms are similar to other illnesses and that is why the school is requiring a Doctor's Note to return to school.

Parents DO NOT give your child a medication that will mask or cover up symptoms temporarily and send them to school. These symptoms are our body's warning sign that something may be wrong. This type of actions only expose other children and staff to whatever illness your child may have.

Childcare Parents please make sure you have read the Childcare Protocols page regarding the website MISymptomApp that you must complete prior to dropping your children off. This is a daily requirement.