



# JAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 4, 2020

Dear Jay parents, staff and community members:

Today, we received notification that two more Middle School students tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the people 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 Jay Public Schools than the safety and health of our students, our staff and their families. We are working directly with the county health department on “contract tracing” and notifying those individuals that were in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with these students. These two students were not in school, therefore no students or staff members were in direct contact. The individuals (family members) who were in close contact will quarantine following the protocols set forth by the CDC, the Health Department and our local district. At this time, the Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and High School have not been impacted like the Middle School. **Starting Monday, November 2nd through November 6th, the Middle School students and staff will transition to Distance Learning while we sanitize and disinfect the building thoroughly. The Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and High School will still attend regular classes at the building sites.** All Middle School extra- curricular activities have been cancelled. We will reevaluate the situation on November 6th to determine when the Middle School building will be reopened.

Jay Public Schools will continue to follow all COVID-related safety procedures including home self-assessments, daily temperature checks, wearing masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning and disinfecting facilities and buses daily.

COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, including in our community, we must 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.

The CDC recommends the following best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- 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 when you are sick.
- Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people.
- Wear a cloth mask in public when you cannot social distance.

Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff and community members. 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 Jay Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Leann Barnwell, Superintendent  
Jay Public Schools