

August 24, 2020

Dear Laverne parents, staff and community members:

Saturday, we were notified that a Laverne student 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 Laverne Public Schools than the safety and health of our students, our staff and their families. We worked directly with county health officials to address this situation. After contact tracing, they contacted all individuals who may have been exposed to the illness and asked them to quarantine for 14 days from their last date of exposure. **At this time, if you have not been contacted, your child has not been identified as being in close contact with the positive individual.**

We are following CDC guidelines and protocols set by the State Department of Health to decrease potential spread. 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 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.

We are providing distance learning to students who must quarantine. We understand this is not an ideal situation and is an inconvenience for all involved; however, our most important responsibility is to protect the health of our students and staff. We appreciate the flexibility, patience and support of those affected, and we are optimistic that by following mitigation protocols recommended by health officials, we can increase our probability of having a safe and productive school year. Please note: students are not counted absent if they require mandatory quarantine.

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 appreciate your understanding and partnership with us as we take the necessary steps to protect our school community. 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 Laverne Public Schools. If you have questions or concerns, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Kyndra Allen, Superintendent