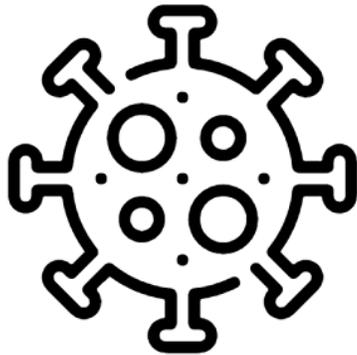


Superintendent's Update - Oct. 30, 2020

Montville Public Schools



 <p>Contacting the District when a Student Tests Positive</p>	<p>If your student tests positive for COVID-19, please call your child's school nurse or principal to report these results even if school is closed.</p> <p>Districts are required to report positive test results for students and staff to the Department of Public Health daily.</p> <p>The reporting process applies to fully remote students as well as our in-person learners.</p>
 <p>Holiday Celebrations and Travel</p>	<p>Please be aware that all students and staff must abide by the regulations in the Governor's travel advisory. Students and staff who travel to a state affected by this travel advisory will need to complete the travel form and either quarantine for 14 days from the time of last contact with the affected state or email a negative test result to the Commissioner of Public Health</p>
 <p>State Flexibility for Snow Days</p>	<p>This week we received notice that districts can choose to treat snow days as remote learning days or as days off to be made up in June. There are a number of requirements that need to be considered in order to call a snow day a remote learning day, including that the district must still provide meals to families on these days. The Board of Education will review the guidance from the state to determine how our district will treat snow days. Your opinion will play a part in that decision if we can meet the terms of the guidance. Please complete a very brief survey by Nov. 6th to express your opinion.</p>



Parent Notification of Positive Cases in Our Schools

Three categories of COVID-19 cases have emerged in reports of positive tests results.

1. A positive case in a person who has not been to school/work for an extended period of time (e.g. they have been quarantined, they hadn't been in school for at least three days prior to symptom onset, or they are a fully remote learner).

These cases do not impact school operations and are noted in these updates to families.

2. A positive case in which there are a few close contacts who can be identified and quarantined without closing a large portion of a school.

These cases impact only one school building, and people in that school community are notified.

3. A positive case with a number of close contacts, or an inability to accurately identify all of the close contacts, which causes us to close a school or a significant portion of the school

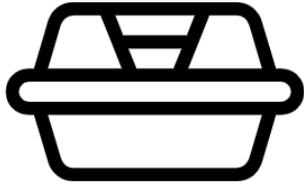
In these cases, the whole district is notified.

In all cases in which close contacts are identified (people within 6 feet of a person who had a positive test result for a cumulative time of 15 minutes or more), personal phone calls are made to explain next steps and quarantine expectations.

We word communications to protect the privacy of the individual with a positive test. For this reason we do not distinguish between staff or students.

Since our schools closed on Oct. 23rd, I have received notice of four additional positive cases.

The week before we closed, we had 7 positive cases. One resulted in the decision to close Palmer, 3 were related to the closure at MHS, and a fifth case at Oakdale resulted in the decision to move the district to distance learning. In addition to these cases there was a case at Oakdale which had only one close contact and one at Mohegan which did not require contact tracing because the individual had not been in school.



Meal Distribution

Adding a third meal distribution site has worked well this week, and we will continue to operate three sites when schools reopen on Nov. 9. Meals will be available at Oakdale, Mohegan and MHS.

Meals will not be served on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd when schools are closed for Election Day, but you can pick up extra meals on Monday.

We continue to provide free meals for all students both in-school and a home.



Live Class Meetings

We continue to expand our use of live Zoom or Google Meets class meetings as we build our internet capacity. It is very important for students to check their electronic classrooms for meeting times and links and attend the scheduled classes. These meetings are a time for students to interact with one another and with their teacher. We ask that parents refrain from participation in classrooms. Parents with questions can always reach out to teachers by e-mail.



Fall Sports

We made the very difficult decision this past week to end our fall season a week early. Cross country has already been canceled by ECC, and football has ended. However, we will not participate in the final soccer and volleyball games the week of Nov. 9th. There were several factors which led to this decision.

While we have had NO known spread of COVID-19 in our classrooms, we did have multiple individuals who tested positive who were linked to an after school activity.

If closing the sports season early increases our ability to keep all students in school, then clearly that has to be our priority. We know that we can most positively impact the academic learning and social and emotional well-being of our students by keeping them in school.



**Schools Re-Open Nov. 9th for
In-Person Learning!**

We eagerly look forward to having students back in classrooms on Monday, Nov. 9th.

In the meantime, please encourage your student to actively engage in the remote work provided.

Have a wonderful, safe Halloween weekend!