

Southern Local School District

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Nov. 20, 2020

Dear School Community,

The Southern Local School District is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. We want to inform you that we have recently encountered staffing issues within the district due to COVID-19. According to the Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System as of 11/19/20 Columbiana County has moved to Red Status. This means our hospitalizations and cases of COVID-19 are increasing in our county.

COVID-19 cases are projected to spike due to gatherings for the holiday season. The amount of staff and students in quarantine is expected to triple from current numbers. **Southern Local Schools is attempting to decrease exposure in our school and community by operating on a remote learning plan beginning November 23rd through January 18th. Face to Face learning will begin again on January 19th. During this time extracurricular activities are postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.**

How You Can Help

Be proactive about reducing the number of interactions that students, staff, and community have with one another and practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart). In addition to physical distancing, below are important tools help to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wear a mask or face covering while in public places or if people who don't live with you must visit your home.
- Avoid unnecessary gatherings with people who don't live in your home.
- Avoid sharing food, drinks, or utensils.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Sing the Happy Birthday song twice to help know when it has been 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and wash your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve, not your hands, to cover coughs and sneezes. If you are experiencing cough or congestion, consider staying home and seeking medical care.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household

cleaning spray or wipes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cleaning of frequently touched surfaces with household cleaners and EPA-registered disinfectants that are appropriate for the surface, following label instructions. A simple bleach solution may also be utilized.

If you have any questions, contact Heidi McIntosh, School Nurse at 330-679-2301, *option 5* or The Columbiana County Health Department at 330-424-0272. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and school.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 Care Line at 1-800-720-9616.

Sincerely,

Tom Cunningham
Superintendent