

January 4, 2022

Dear New Haven Families and Community:

I hope this email finds you well, and you have had a great start to 2022! I pray that we begin to see some relief from the pandemic we have now been in since March of 2020.

New Haven Community School District returns from the Christmas break this Wednesday. The Macomb County Superintendents met twice over the break with the Health Department to discuss the new variant and the infection rates in the County. Currently, the county is seeing over 1600 positive cases a day. This is the highest rate we have seen since the pandemic started. Although the infection rate of the new variant is high, we were told that symptoms are usually mild for anyone who is vaccinated.

Keeping that in mind, **it has been decided that all staff and students will be required to wear a mask for the next three weeks in an attempt to help slow the spread of the virus down. The mandate will last through to January 26th.**

There is a lot happening our first two weeks back! We have report cards that will be going home, as well as NWEA testing for all K-10th grade students for the benchmark assessments mandated by the State. During our 3rd week, we have brought in a program for all K-12th grade students and staff called Rachel's Challenge. The goal of this program is to help encourage and promote kindness and caring throughout the district!

With all that is going on, it is imperative that everyone do all they can to help assure our face to face can continue. If you know that someone in your house or someone you were around is not feeling well or being tested for COVID, PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME until you know one way or the other if they may have been exposed! Parents have been wonderful about this and making sure they follow up with their building administrators about what is going on!

Last week the CDC announced that they had changed the quarantine rules, lowering it to 5 days. However, late Tuesday we were informed that the decision was made that schools must still quarantine 10 days, or 8 with a negative test on the 5th, 6th or 7th day.

We have had several breakthrough cases of staff during the break, and if the spread continues, we may find ourselves not having enough staff to keep all classes open, enough drivers for transportation or staff for our SACC programs. **Therefore, I am once again urging parents to have a "Plan B" ready should staffing shortages arise or our infection rate begins to climb.**

Thank you for your continued understanding! There will be a day that this will all be behind us, but until then...please continue to be vigilant in keeping yourself and those around you safe!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Puzdrakiewicz

Superintendent

New Haven Community Schools

GO ROCKETS!