

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes, Superintendent
ThoenesJ@ComstockPS.org



October 14, 2020

Dear Comstock Families,

Comstock Public Schools and the Comstock Board of Education value full transparency regarding the reporting of cases of COVID-19 within our community. On October 6, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a statewide order mandating that districts begin reporting certain COVID-19 cases. This order took effect on Monday, October 12, and this letter will explain how the district will faithfully comply with this important public health and safety requirement.

Within 24 hours of receiving notification from our local health department of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 on school property or at a school function, we will communicate that information to our community via email and social media. We will also post this information on our [coronavirus page](#) on the district's website. In addition, we will maintain and update a [coronavirus dashboard](#) which reports the number of cases of coronavirus within the district.

Importantly, every Monday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reports statewide information regarding COVID-19 outbreaks by individual school buildings. A COVID-19 outbreak is defined as *two or more cases with a link by place and time indicating a shared exposure outside of a household*. This information is derived from COVID-19 outbreak data reported by the 45 local health departments across the state, including Kalamazoo, and can be reviewed at: [School-Related Outbreak Reporting](#).

As you read and learn about the district's COVID-19 cases, please be aware of the following:

- Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the district cannot - and will not - disclose the identity of a staff member or student that has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will not return to school until public health officials deem them safe to do so.
- When a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, district administrators will work closely with public health officials and act under their medical direction and expertise. The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department will investigate and identify close contacts during the infectious period. Only those persons who are deemed close contacts will be ordered to quarantine by the Health Department.

To assist families in quickly and proactively reporting health concerns to district and public health officials, Comstock Public Schools has created a [COVID-19 hotline](#). Please call 269-250-8982 to report any suspected, probable, or confirmed cases of school-related COVID-19.

3010 Gull Road | Kalamazoo, MI 49048 | 269-250-8907 | 269-250-8908 fax



Thank you for carefully checking your child for the following symptoms: temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, an uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, the onset of a severe headache, diarrhea, vomiting, unusual belly pain, or new loss of taste or smell.

Working together, we will continue to protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes
Superintendent