

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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



December 6, 2021

Dear Comstock Educational Community,

Our community, county, state, and nation continue to struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, and we are again in the grips of a viral surge that is fueled predominantly by the Delta Variant. This variant is as contagious as the measles and is 50 times more contagious than the original strains of coronavirus. Shockingly, as of today, over 787,000 Americans have died during this pandemic which does not seem to be slowing down. In August, before the start of school, test positivity was hovering around 1%, and we had fewer than 10 cases of the illness per 100,000 population in the county. Unfortunately, test positivity this week in Kalamazoo County is around 19%, and new cases hover at 505 per 100,000 population. Both of these metrics are in the "F" range which is the worst category as tracked by the State of Michigan.

On the other hand, the implementation of our district's mitigation strategies, especially masking, have worked extremely well to reduce the spread of the virus and prevented many staff and students from needing to quarantine. Comstock Public Schools has the lowest number of student and staff cases in the county, by percentage and per capita. Accordingly, we will continue with our current masking order into the foreseeable future. Additionally, we will adhere to the following protocols:

- a. Encourage anyone eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Appointments can be scheduled in Kalamazoo County at this [website](#),
- b. Urge frequent hand washing,
- c. Maintain social distance to the extent physically allowable within a given space, and
- d. Advise anyone to stay home when sick and get tested for COVID-19.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact me so we can discuss the issues.

"It's a great day to be a Colt!"

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes

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

