

JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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Dear Jesup Community School Parents and Families,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break and was able to enjoy some rest, relaxation, and family time. We are now entering a very critical stretch between the two holiday breaks, both from a COVID standpoint as well as an academic standpoint. While we were prepared for an uptick in COVID cases these coming weeks, you can see by our numbers below, we have not yet felt that impact. We are hopeful to keep our numbers low. This week the CDC announced new guidance in regards to the number of days required to quarantine when there is a positive exposure. Buchanan County Public Health notified us last night that our county will also be adopting this new guidance. For individuals who were exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID, they are now required to quarantine for 10 days and are able to return if they do not develop any symptoms. During this quarantine if an individual takes a COVID test on day 5 or later and receives a negative result then they are able to return on day 7 of the quarantine. For those individuals who are unable to isolate from a family member who test positive, they will now have to quarantine for 20 days instead of the previous 24 days. We are updating our spreadsheets and if you are currently on quarantine, you will receive an update on your return date. We are hopeful that this new guidance will continue to allow us to stop the spread of COVID as well as allow students and staff to return to in-person teaching and learning in a shorter period of time.

As of today, we currently have **54** individuals who are in quarantine. **Up to 5** of these individuals have tested positive with the remainder on quarantine due to positive or potential positive exposures or exhibiting symptoms. **Up to 5** of these individuals on quarantine can be traced back to school exposure. Please continue to do your part in helping each other stay safe and allow us to remain in person for teaching, learning, and activities.

The county 14-day positivity rates are currently **14.1%** for Buchanan County and **13.7%** for Black Hawk County. This data changes frequently and can be found at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>. We continue to monitor this data closely and we work hand-in-hand with Public Health as we address all positive cases and potential exposures. We appreciate your support in helping to make this happen. If at any time you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's building principal. Stay J-Hawk Safe and J-Hawk Strong!

Thank you and take care,

Nathan