



April 28, 2021

Superintendent

Matthew J.M. Montange

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Yesterday evening we were informed by the Allegan County Health Department that Gilkey Elementary School has been determined to have an ongoing transmission of COVID-19. This is defined as multiple cases (3 or more) among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are linked, do not share a household and were identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during the case investigation or contact tracing. Currently, we have multiple positive or probable COVID-19 cases at Gilkey.

To prevent additional spread, Allegan County Health Department guidance has determined that remote learning is necessary for Gilkey students starting Thursday, April 29. This remote learning timeframe will allow the infectious period for identified and unidentified/asymptomatic cases to pass and protect all students, families, and staff from further exposure. Students will return to in person learning on Monday, May 10. Gilkey families will receive additional information regarding learning format and other specific details while students are in the remote learning format.

As required by the State of Michigan Health and Human Services Department, all student athletes ages 13 and up are tested weekly for COVID-19. So far we have had one (1) student test positive and five (5) quarantines from this testing program. We will continue to work directly with ACHD when cases arise to determine when quarantines are required or if additional measures are needed to limit the exposure of students, families, and staff.

We appreciate your continued adherence to pre-screening your students and not sending students to school when they have symptoms or possible exposure. We also thank you for your diligent reporting of cases, symptoms, or possible exposure to the school as this helps us to quickly respond and mitigate the impact of these cases. Again, we appreciate your support and patience as we continue to work through these difficult situations, please reach out directly to your building if you have specific questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. M. Montange