

Jackson Center Schools

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Re: Jackson Center Schools Re-Start Letter #5

8/27/20

Dear Parents and Members of the Jackson Center Community:

I want to thank you and your kids for a fabulous start to the school year. The staff was well prepared and the kids are soaking up the information. In addition, your students and their teachers have done their best to adhere to the 'Back to School' guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, the Shelby County Health Department and Jackson Center Schools. It probably does not need to be stated, but that is a whole bunch of different authorities giving direction to parents, teachers and students! All of those entities are all doing their best to slow the spread of COVID-19, but we understand that all the information can get very confusing.

Our kids are doing a great job, but there is no way to be perfect in distancing, mask use and hygiene and we know that there are cases all over Shelby County including in Jackson Center. The next question, of course, is "what specifically happens when there is a case at school?" Please know that recommendations seem to change daily, but as of right now, the next page is an attempt to consolidate the process even more than what was outlined in Letter #4 with the goal being to keep our kids in school and keep them in their activities! We know that is the healthiest way for them to grow, learn and develop.

Bill Reichert
Superintendent
Jackson Center Schools

Jackson Center Schools Active COVID-19 Case Protocol

Staff members and students SHOULD NOT come to school if they are experiencing symptoms of illness - **especially fever (unmedicated), vomiting and the loss of taste and smell. The loss of taste and smell is one symptom that seems to distinguish COVID-19 from many other illnesses.** All other symptoms should be monitored.

- If a staff member or student **has** symptoms of illness, but taste and smell are intact, they had no exposure to a known case of COVID -19 and **they choose not to get tested**, they could return 24 hours after all symptoms have subsided. Their return will be determined on a case by case basis in consultation with the school administration.
- If a staff member or student **has** symptoms of illness and **chooses to be tested** for Covid-19, they need to remain at home until the test results have returned.
 - If the results are **negative** and all symptoms have subsided, a return to school can be immediate.
 - If the results are **positive**, the staff member or student will need to stay home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and be free from any symptoms before they return to school. The person with a positive case may be contacted by the Shelby County Health Department and will be asked about the people that the positive case has been in close contact within the timeframe they feel is appropriate. *Exposure is defined by the CDC as 6' or less for 15 minutes. The people identified by the person with the positive case will have to quarantine for 14 days from their first exposure to the positive case.*
 - A staff member or student identified by the person with the positive case will then have the option of getting tested and then all factors (test results, symptoms etc.) will be evaluated before their eventual return to school.

Notes:

- 1) **The school could also be called to name people that have been in close contact with positive cases.**
- 2) **There is no 2nd layer tracing or mandatory quarantine for those indirectly affected by the positive case. They only apply to those directly in contact with the positive case.**
- 3) **If a school shutdown is necessary, it could come in many forms: district wide shut down, by grade level(s), individual classes etc. It will be based upon the needs of the students and the resources available to the district.**

If you have more questions, please contact the Shelby County Health Department or reference the following document. http://www.shelbycountyhealthdept.org/index_660_3132108159.pdf