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# Lyle School District

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November 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the time of year when we typically reflect and give thanks for the many good things for which we have to be grateful. While there's nothing typical about 2020, I remain thankful. This year has brought with it tremendous challenges for staff, students and families. We have essentially re-invented education overnight and have done our very best to continue to support students and families who need us.

In addition to expressing my thanks, I am also asking you for your help, on behalf of our staff, students and families. **Please read this entire letter, including page 2**, for important details about new safety precautions we are putting place.

As you likely already know, Governor Inslee has implemented statewide restrictions in response to a recent spike in COVID cases in Washington. The CDC has also asked people to forego their travel plans and have Thanksgiving at home.

While Klickitat County Public Health indicates that in-person instruction continues to be safe with appropriate precautionary measures, indoor gatherings with people outside of your household have been prohibited unless people quarantine for the fourteen days prior to the social gathering.

In addition to the ban on indoor gatherings, Governor Inslee has also issued a travel advisory, asking residents to stay close to home and if you do travel, he is recommending a 14-day quarantine following interstate and international travel.

**Here's where my request to you comes in.** We take safety measures very seriously and ask that you do the same. We have only a small margin of flexibility if our teachers and other staff get sick. A few absences could dramatically impact our school district's ability to stay open. It's unlikely that any subs we can find would have the training necessary to step in and teach our TEAMS classes, so if more than one or two teachers get sick, we will have a very hard time continuing any instruction.

In the interest of continuing school, we ask that you reconsider travel plans during the Thanksgiving. **If your family does travel** in the next four weeks, we ask that parents comply with the Governor's request and **have your family quarantine at home for two weeks** from

the date of your return. Your students will be able to participate in class remotely, and our teachers will be able to continue teaching all students.

**In addition, beginning Monday, November 23, we are implementing more strenuous requirements when students display symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.**

We no longer will allow a student with a class "B" symptom\* to attend school. In simple terms, if your child is sick or not feeling well, please keep them home. This is for the safety of everyone and to keep our school open.

If a student's class "B" symptom\* lasts longer than 24 hours, then:

- The student must go for PCR COVID testing and have a negative result, or;
- Get an alternative diagnosis, or;
- Isolate for at least 10 days after symptoms started. If a fever or other symptoms are present, the student cannot return until 24 hours after the fever resolves and symptoms improve. This is in addition to the initial 10 day quarantine.
- In addition, the student's siblings cannot come to school unless testing is done with a negative PCR result; or receives an alternative diagnosis; or isolates for 10 days minimum as outlined above.

If a student has two or more class "B" symptoms or any class "A" symptoms\*\*, **the student and their siblings must stay home** until:

- The student has tested negative for COVID-19 with a PCR test;
- Received an alternative diagnosis;
- Or isolated for at least ten days after symptoms started. If a fever or other symptoms are present, the student cannot return until 24 hours after the fever resolves and symptoms improve. This is in addition to the initial 10 day quarantine.
- If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us. I encourage you to enjoy your family time during next week's holiday, and to do your part to keep all of us safe.

Sincerely,



Lori Smith, Principal

\*Class "B" symptoms include: fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, and diarrhea

\*\*Class "A" symptoms are: fever, chills, cough, loss of taste/smell, or shortness of breath

**P.S., this letter will be added to our Parent Update letters on the website, [www.lyleschools.org](http://www.lyleschools.org), on the "Latest Updates" page under the Hybrid Learning dropdown, <https://lyleschools.org/District/1226-Updates.html>.**