



LIVINGSTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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www.lchd.org

PERSONAL/PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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Dear Parents,

There are many social, health, and mental health benefits in children physically attending school. In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are also risks. We all need to pitch in to help ensure that risks are minimized as much as possible.

The school staff and teachers are working hard to prepare the classrooms and schools to be as safe as possible. We need your help to keep children safe out of school as well.

We are finding that medium to large gatherings (i.e. graduation parties, birthdays, etc.) are leading to increased transmission in our older children. This poses a risk to the child as well as his/her friends, family, teammates, and schoolmates. While it is true that most children have a less severe course of illness, this is not true for everyone and there are serious complications that can arise. Additionally, older family members and other community members can experience serious negative health effects including hospitalization and death.

Last but not least are the practical implications of children being diagnosed with COVID-19. For every child that is diagnosed, likely their class, team, or fellow club or band members will require to be quarantined for 14 days to evaluate whether or not they develop symptoms. A school will not be able to stay open, even in the context of low community transmission, if entire classrooms and sports teams must be quarantined.

We are asking that you talk with your children and ask them to do these simple things to help everyone stay safe and keep schools open:

- Wear a mask whenever out in public including when spending time with friends (if age appropriate)
- Wash your hands
- Socially distance (stay apart 6 feet)
- Avoid medium to large gatherings
- Stay home if you are sick. Even if you think the symptoms are mild, stay home.

If you require more information, please see our website at www.lchd.org.

Thank you,

Juan Marquez, MD

Juan Marquez, MD, MPH

Medical Director

Livingston County Health Department