



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

TO: Preschool and School Age Families

FROM: Bill Green, Superintendent
Kristen Quicci, Director of Nursing

DATE: January 11, 2022

SUBJECT: Omicron and Plan of Action

Greetings, and I hope that this correspondence finds you healthy and well.

As you may have heard or experienced, 46.5% of students in our School Age Program, and 53% of our Preschool Students, are out due to illness or quarantine.

Given what is determined to be spread within and throughout our buildings, we will be canceling scheduled classes tomorrow, Wednesday, January 12, and Thursday, January 13. As a reminder, there are no classes scheduled for Friday, January 14, given it is the teacher's professional day.

We recognize this may cause significant disruption to your life, and are offering in-home supports for tomorrow, January 12, and Thursday, January 13, if child care is needed. If this is a need, please contact Rebecca Holthaus, School Age Principal; or Tammy Maney, Early Childhood Director.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE THUS FAR AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO:

- Our Nursing Department continues to identify staff and students with symptoms of illness, or those who test positive for COVID-19. Nursing will isolate or quarantine individuals, based on the guidance and recommendations of the Ohio Department of Health and the Stark County Health Department (SCHD).
- Nursing continues to work with the SCHD to determine when it is safe for staff or students to return to school, based on the criteria for release from isolation or quarantine.
- Cleaning protocols remain in place, and cleaning and disinfecting of exposed school areas will be completed according to agency procedures.
- In an effort to do all we can to protect our students and co-workers, our staff will continue to wear a mask (face covering) while at work.
- We have also maintained other mitigating strategies such as keeping distance, good handwashing, and encouraging staff and students to stay home when sick.
- Nursing has worked with the SCHD and ODH to obtain COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits, which are available to staff and students who experience symptoms of illness, or want to test at 5-days post-exposure to a COVID-19 positive person.

WHAT WE CAN ALL DO:

- Please report any COVID-19 positive students or staff to the Nursing Department at 330-479-3748.
- Please keep your student home if they are sick. Staff should also stay home if they are sick. Nursing is available to help you navigate your symptoms and get you a test kit as needed.
- Get vaccinated, and then get a booster. If you have already been vaccinated, thank you for acting to protect yourself and others at work, inside your family, and in your community. If you need assistance obtaining a vaccine, please contact our Nursing Department. They will help get you an appointment right here at Whipple Dale.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact, Kristen Quicci, Director of Nursing at 330-479-3748.