

November 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Douglas County School District Students:

The Fall season has brought cooler weather, but also a rise of 100% over the last few weeks in COVID 19 cases in our county. We were already in the high transmission category, but this new rise in cases jeopardizes all the progress that has been made to this point. Surges in many states throughout the nation show us that we have not controlled this virus yet. We in public health are deeply concerned with cold weather moving us indoors, the anticipated holiday travel, and the COVID fatigue that has made our community to be less likely to wear masks or keep our distance from others.

The importance of keeping our children in school is indisputable. At this critical juncture, we need to work together to keep that a reality for us all.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) is working with the school staff and parents to contain isolated cases of COVID-19 throughout the schools. Due to federal HIPAA laws, we try our best to protect the privacy of the affected individuals in each case. We wanted to take this time to remind of you of best practices during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

Please remember, **DO NOT** send your children to school when they have symptoms of COVID-19.

These symptoms include but are not limited to:

Cough

Shortness of breath

Fever

Muscle aches

Sore throat

Headaches

Congestion/runny nose

Diarrhea

We have received multiple reports of parents sending their children to school while sick. We understand the burden of having to keep children home when they are sick but sending sick children to school can endanger other children and staff, as well. Free Covid-19 tests are provided by CDPH in the form of nasal swabs with results that return within 1-2 days.

Also remember that any child who is in direct contact with a family member positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes ACCUMULATED over 24 hours during the isolation period is a close contact and should not be sent to school and must quarantine. Not doing so, endangers the health of other children and the community at large.

These orders are in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4(4) and 31-12-4, Chapter 511-9- 1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

We ask that you all help us to contain the spread of COVID-19 within our community to keep our children in school. Taking these steps, along with wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing and avoiding crowds of people will go a long way in us winning this battle.

Please contact us at cobbanddouglashealth.org for more information on the Coronavirus or to sign up for a test.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Memark', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet Pak Memark M.D., M.P.H, F.A.C.P.
District Health Director
District 3-1: Cobb & Douglas Public Health