



November 13, 2020

We know you are concerned about the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Ohio, Franklin County and our community, and how this increase might impact our district. We want to reassure you we are monitoring this situation closely and are having regular conversations with public health authorities.

### **What You Should Know**

Franklin County is on the watch list for possible advancement to purple status. While we don't know how state or public health officials may respond, we continue to follow guidance from Franklin County Public Health (FCPH). Current recommendations from FCPH state that hybrid learning, with proper precautions, is safe for students and teachers.

GJPS principals, teachers and staff have worked hard to ensure our schools are safe. We are taking all health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, using PPE, washing hands, and cleaning and sanitizing our classrooms and common areas. We have not seen evidence of COVID-19 being spread in our classrooms or during the school day; however, we have had a number of cases that have caused us to quarantine large numbers of staff and students. Our positive and quarantine numbers along with the high demand for substitutes in Central Ohio have made staffing our buildings a challenge over the last several days. We have also had a number of student athletes contract the virus causing a number of our athletic teams to quarantine as well.

### **What it Means for Students and Families**

It is our intention to maintain hybrid learning as long as permitted and practical to do so, because we believe our students benefit from the in-person interaction and learning in the classroom environment. Distance learning will remain an option for families who choose this for their student.

This is an ever-changing situation, and we will continue to update you.

### **What You Should Do**

Preventing COVID-19 from further affecting the operations of our district takes all of us working together. Protecting our teachers, staff and students is our priority, and I ask for your help in following health and safety practices both in and out of school. This will minimize the risk of exposure and quarantine in the schools and during extra-curricular activities.

### **What's Next**

GJPS has established a COVID Task Force, made up of community members, most of whom are healthcare providers or public health experts. They will meet regularly to review district data, discuss COVID-19 practices, and provide feedback and recommendations for our district's pandemic plans. The task force's guidance will be valuable to district leaders, and we will share their insights with our school community.

As always, we will do all we can to assure the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff and school community, while maintaining our commitment to providing a quality education.