

# Dawson-Bryant Local School District



*"Home of the Coal Grove Hornets"*

**Steven Easterling**  
*Superintendent*

**Bradley Miller**  
*Treasurer*

**Ellen Adkins**  
*Director of Instructional  
Programs*

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October 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

District teachers and administrators have recently been receiving a significant number of communications from parents seeking information about which student(s) are COVID positive. We recognize that you are concerned for your child(ren), but please understand that the District has an obligation to maintain student privacy and cannot share this type of information with you.

The District is legally prohibited from sharing information regarding the class(es) attended by an infected student, where the student was sitting, the date of infection, or other student-specific information where such information, alone or in combination, would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify the student who is COVID positive. The COVID-specific information we are permitted to share with parents is posted on our COVID dashboard, which can be found on the District's webpage and is regularly updated to provide all parents with the most up-to-date information. Here is the link: <https://www.db.k12.oh.us/COVID-19Dashboard.aspx>.

Be assured that you will receive a phone call from the local health department if your child has been exposed to a COVID-positive student and must quarantine. Please do not reach out to individual staff members to press them for additional information that they are prohibited from disclosing. The numerous parent communications are becoming a distraction for our dedicated staff, who are devoting their time and attention to providing an educational program to all students, both in person and remotely, while implementing and enforcing the numerous COVID-related health and safety protocols the District has implemented for the well-being of everyone in the school community. However, if you have another specific concern related to your child's health that you believe can be addressed by the District, we encourage you to send an e-mail to your child's building principal.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee social distancing in all our classrooms. If you feel uncomfortable about this you may want to contact your building principal about the Remote Learning option.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Yours in Education,

  
Steve Easterling  
Superintendent

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Dear Parents,

Because of a significant number of communications from parents regarding quarantining of students due to COVID exposure, the Dawson-Bryant Local Schools and the Lawrence County Department of Health are sending this joint letter to clarify quarantine protocols and the role that the District and the Health Department each play in the process.

If a Dawson-Bryant School District student is identified as COVID-positive, the Lawrence County Health Department is notified so they can conduct contact tracing. The District communicates the COVID-positive case to all parents (without student-specific identifying information) on the District's COVID dashboard.

In order to do contact tracing, the Health Department seeks information from the District about school interactions. The District provides them with the names of any students or staff who were within six feet of the COVID-positive student for more than fifteen minutes at school or in a school activity, looking back to forty-eight hours before onset of symptoms. To provide that information, it is the District's established practice to rely on school staff with first-hand knowledge of the situation, rather than on individual students, to give the most accurate information possible to the Health Department.

As with all things related to COVID, the District has evolved in its practices to increase the accuracy of information provided to the health department. The District has worked with staff to measure and mark six-foot distances and to keep seating charts up to date as students move in and out of remote learning, so the District can be as confident as possible in the information being reported to the health department.

After the Health Department has gathered what it considers to be all relevant information for determining COVID exposure, it determines whether a student or staff member has been exposed to COVID and must be required to quarantine. You will receive a phone call from the Health Department if your child must quarantine. If you do receive such notification, please understand that you cannot appeal to the District to override that determination. The Health Department, not the District, has the authority to decide who must quarantine.

We thank you in advance for respecting the hard work that the District and the Health Department do to conduct contact tracing and to try to keep everyone in the school community safe and healthy.

Steve Easterling

Superintendent

Dawson-Bryant Local Schools

Georgia Dillon

Health Commissioner

Lawrence County Health Department