



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Ware Families,

Good day! Hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day break! Now that the holiday season is upon us it is imperative that we remain diligent in utilization of our COVID mitigation strategies. Since last week the positivity rate in Ware has increased from 5.43% to 7.33% with 23 positive cases identified since our return from break. You can stay updated on the number of cases by viewing our daily dashboard at <http://www.wareps.org/covid19/dashboard>. If the rate trends anything like last year's holiday season we will see an increase in the spread of the virus. Ways to help in alleviating the spread is to utilize our strategies to hold down the rates which will allow students from getting infected and remaining in school.

One mitigation strategy is weekly testing. This allows students and families peace of mind knowing their child/ren are not bringing home the virus. Another benefit to weekly testing is it allows students to test and stay if they are identified as a close contact. If a student is symptom free along with a negative result, they can remain in school and go on with their daily routines whether it be during the school day or after school activities. This strategy has allowed several students to remain in school without any interruption to their learning. The attached flow chart explains the protocols if a student/staff member tests positive or is identified as a close contact.

Many symptoms of the virus are similar to those of a cold or flu, such as a fever, cough, runny nose and fatigue. If you have any question if your child should stay home, follow the attached symptom checker or contact your child's school nurse. It is recommended that your child stay home if they have any symptoms. They should be tested to be sure they do not have virus before returning to school.

I cannot impress upon you the importance of managing this virus for students to remain in school as we move further into the holiday season and into the winter months.

Stay well,

Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo
Superintendent

Jennifer Knight
School Nurse Leader