October 29, 2020

Good morning, Goessel families. This is a follow-up to yesterday's email.

After sending a general COVID bulletin which included numbers of positive cases, it became clear that I had neglected to send district-wide notification after each positive case. That was an oversight, and I have a plan in place for future cases. In each situation I have focused on contact tracing, with specific communication to those individuals who qualify as a close contact. However, moving forward, you will receive an alert each time a positive case is identified in the building.

We are not able to share any identifying information about who the positive case is. That is considered Protected Health Information (PHI), and is restricted from being shared by HIPAA and FERPA regulations. School districts have also been explicitly instructed by KDHE and KSDE to protect identities of COVID positive individuals. I understand that knowing who is positive could help you identify your own risk, and I recognize that it is frustrating to feel in the dark about how you might be connected to a positive case. Please continue to practice all advised safety measures - social distancing, proper mask wearing, and thorough hand hygiene - as the best defense for keeping yourself safe.

As a final clarification, here is the relevant information about the five total cases within the district to date:

* Cases 1 and 2 were at the high school, and have completed the isolation time advised by the health department.
* Case 3 is an individual connected to both buildings, and has completed the isolation time advised by the health department.
* Case 4 is a probable case connected to the high school. This individual is in isolation, and last had contact at the school on 10/22/2020. This individual was not at school at all during the window of time when contagiousness is considered.
* Case 5 is an individual connected to both buildings. This individual is in isolation, and last had contact with the school on 10/26/2020.

Thank you for your cooperation, participation, and understanding as we work to keep USD 411 safe. This is new territory, and we are learning more each day about what we can do better. The health of the district and the community remains our top priority!

Libby