



November 30, 2020

The Tri-County School Corporation made the difficult decision to close all Tri-County schools on Monday, November 30th. The decision to close our schools was determined after receiving confirmation of a positive student test late in the afternoon. If your child has been tested, is showing symptoms, or has received test results, please contact the appropriate building your child attends. This communication is important for our schools to continue operating safely with as little interruptions with in-person instruction as possible.

The corporation will reopen with in-person instruction on Monday, December 7th. While the corporation is closed, student learning will continue via remote instruction. Starting Tuesday, December 1 through Friday, December 4th, all Tri-County Schools will participate in remote learning. For the Jr/Sr High School, Tuesday and Thursday will be Red days and Wednesday and Friday will be Blue days.

We are asking families to continue to follow the CDC guidelines of physical distancing, properly wearing mask coverings, and frequent hand washing while at school and in the community. Also, if feeling ill for any reason, please stay home. We also require self-isolation for students considered as a close contact. It is important to self-isolate from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Preventing the spread will hopefully allow Tri-County to successfully re-open and conduct extra-curricular activities, including winter athletics.

All high school extracurricular practices are allowed during this closure, however, competitions are postponed. All junior high extracurricular practices are postponed until a return to in-person instruction is safe. Once again, it is important to mention extracurricular activities for the remainder of a season are in jeopardy if we do not work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. The simple act of staying home from school and practice when sick, properly communicating with school administration, and promptly reporting test results will help students and parents enjoy extracurricular activities.

In order to be transparent with the entire Tri-County community, it is important to continue to share data and information periodically. Our COVID dashboard is updated regularly and can be found on our Tri-County [website](#).

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, Tri-County received positive test results for 2 staff members. One positive was from a full-time staff member, while the other positive was a substitute teacher. An outside school resource working with Tri-County students also received a positive test result over the holiday weekend.

Over the holidays, the administration and nursing staff also handled phone calls to parents regarding students suffering emotional damage and actions resulting in physical attempts of self-harm. Although students may appear to be “fine,” this is a reminder that many are still struggling with what is going on. Please remain attuned to any changes in a student and notify a counselor or building administrator if you are concerned.



Tri-County remains committed to providing a physically and emotionally safe environment for all students and staff while providing quality in-person instruction. The reality is in-person instruction remains a tenuous proposition under the current strains of contact tracing and quarantining. Yet, we realize, and research supports that in-person instruction is what is best for our students overall health and education.

On almost a daily basis, the decision to remain with in-person instruction is considered and evaluated. There are no easy decisions, but decisions are made with students and staff overall well-being at the forefront of the consideration. Knowing this, Tri-County is urging everyone within the community to continue working together to keep everyone healthy so that we can continue in-person instruction for our students with as little interruption as possible. Despite the fact we are forced to temporarily close our school, Tri-County remains committed to providing the best educational opportunities and support for all students.

Go Cavs!

Yours in Education,
Patrick Culp, Superintendent