

Good Afternoon Bulldog Family,

As you all know, our county was just elevated to level purple on the state alert system. This means that the spread of the COVID-19 is continuing to increase within Stark County. In anticipation of this scenario, we have had several discussions with city & county health officials to make sure our response to the pandemic is in line with federal, state, and local guidelines.

I have been in close communication with Canton City Public Health and we believe that school is still the safest place for our students as long as we make sure our safety protocols are followed by everyone. For this reason, we still plan to return to in-person instruction on December 7th in all buildings except Dueber (which returns on December 9th).

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Considerations-for-Schools-and-Districts-in-Purple>

So far in our district, 87% of all staff and student absences related to COVID-19 are due to persons under quarantine and not to confirmed cases of COVID-19. To date, we do not have evidence of significant spread in any of our buildings (defined as more than 2 connected confirmed cases in a building).

This data confirms that our safety procedures are working. We remain committed to providing in-person learning as long as we can continue to mitigate the spread of the virus, and appropriately staff our buildings and classrooms.

As you prepare to return please remember to do a full symptom check every day and stay home if you are sick. Also, it is imperative that we all follow state and local safety guidelines when we are away from school. Our behaviors outside of our buildings affect our ability to continue with in-person instruction.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for everything you've done to help us navigate this crisis and I ask for your continued support as we work to move forward. Have a safe weekend and Go Bulldogs!