



WHITESIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 115

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Superintendent

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January 14, 2022

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

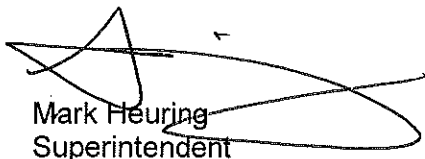
The Illinois State Board of Education released updated guidance this week for public schools regarding COVID 19. District administrators in conjunction with our school nurses have been working to develop a plan that aligns with the needs of Whiteside Schools and the safety of our students and staff.

District leaders reviewed our COVID-19 dashboard data which has continued to increase in positive student cases in January. This data along with concerns with spacing limitations during lunch have caused concerns for the administration. Due to this, the district cannot move forward with a shorter window for positive cases or untested symptomatic students. Therefore, at this time, **Whiteside School District will be following the 10-day guidance for all students who test POSITIVE for COVID-19 or present COVID-19 symptoms.**

We are instituting the close contact guidance of 5 days for students who have been in contact with a positive case. The district will require a negative COVID test on day 5 for students to return after a close contact with a positive case at school. We are also using 5 days from a student's last exposure when determining the length of quarantines outside of the school district (family/siblings).

Whiteside School District will continue to work closely with our local and state agencies as we review our internal data to implement current changes associated with the updated guidance. District officials will review the current decision on or before January 28th and provide parents with any changes or updated information. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time as we work to see students return to school as quickly and as safely as possible.

Thank you,


Mark Heuring
Superintendent