



--sent 9/18/20--

LPS Families,

As we near the end of the second week of school, I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for your part in helping us *Return to Learn*. We appreciate your partnership to serve our learners during these challenging times.

After months of preparations by our *LPS Reentry Task Force*, it has been both exciting and encouraging to see the plan executed by everyone involved. We knew this year would be challenging for everyone. The resiliency and adaptability shown by our students, staff, and families has been inspiring. Whether learning face-to-face or virtually, relationships are being fostered every day, and valuable school experiences are happening across all learning environments. Having said this, we remain committed to continuous improvement across our schools and know that we will only improve our efforts in the coming weeks and months.

We remain engaged with the Clay County Public Health Department and other local health officials, as COVID-19 continues to be present in our community. I am pleased to report that when we have been made aware of positive cases in our school communities, we have been able to successfully keep the numbers of close contacts, while at school, to a minimum. Thanks in large part to the work of our *LPS Reentry Task Force* and our staff and students following the procedures in place, we have had a low number of *close contacts* reported while at school. In an effort to continue our transparency efforts system-wide, earlier this week we launched a district dashboard that provides additional data for families. This dashboard can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

The topic of *Contact Tracing* is one that has received attention and discussion among our various stakeholder groups. Below are a few reminders related to our contact tracing process:

- A *close contact* is defined by the [CDC](#) as someone who is within six feet of the positive individual for 15 minutes or longer.
- When LPS receives notification of a positive case involving one of our students or staff, we immediately look at whether the individual was on school property while symptomatic or during the 48 hours before becoming symptomatic.
- If the individual was not on school property, or participating in school activities, within 48 hours of becoming symptomatic, we will likely not notify staff or family members at the school, because the positive case did not have contact with anyone within the school environment.
- If the individual was on school property within 48 hours of being symptomatic, we will conduct a contact tracing investigation to determine whether there are any *close contacts* within the school environment, and we will notify staff and all family members at the impacted school.

As has been shared throughout the past six months, this continues to be an extremely fluid situation and one that will evolve in the weeks to come. As a school community, we continue to be committed to providing safe and healthy learning environments for all of our nearly 13,000 learners. I cannot thank you enough for your partnership and support for our District.

Have a great upcoming weekend. Be well!

**Dr. Jeremy Tucker**

Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools