

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21

400 West Front Street

Hartsburg, IL 62643

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

217-642-5244

Jon Leslie, District Principal

217-642-5333 (Fax)

August 17, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that a third employee at the Hartsburg-Emden Jr./Sr. High School has tested positive for COVID-19. We have coordinated our efforts with the Logan County Health Department to promptly identify and monitor individuals who have had recent contact with the COVID-19 positive individual to prevent further spread within our school and community. The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At this time school will be pushed back by one week. School will be resuming as normal as outlined in our Phase IV Re-Opening Plan on Monday August 24th.

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21 is following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health.

To prevent further spread of the disease, Hartsburg-Emden is taking the following steps:

- We will identify and notify close contacts (i.e., persons who were within six feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes or longer).
- Working with the health department to place staff members and students who are identified as having prolonged close contact to the COVID-19 case(s) in quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts will also receive a separate notification from the Logan County Health Department.
- Ongoing monitoring of students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness and evaluation of illness reports to promptly identify possible outbreaks.
- We will be conducting a deep clean and disinfection of the areas impacted by potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID-19 cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-19 like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, as previously directed and per school policy.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in contact with children and other staff in the facility.
- We are continuously sanitizing high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc.
- We have removed plush toys and furniture that cannot be properly or frequently disinfected.
- We are teaching students the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing:
 - Students are discouraged from sharing personal items, e.g., water bottles.
 - Students are learning new ways to greet each other without touching.
 - Students are reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, and to cover coughs and sneezes.

- Students are taught to wash their hands frequently and properly, following CDC guidelines on handwashing.
- As we receive more information from the Department of Public Health and other entities, we will implement additional recommendations and guidelines.

As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms. Sick persons should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed. Anyone who develops severe symptoms should seek medical care immediately. If your child has had close contact with a known case of COVID-19, keep the child at home and notify your primary healthcare provider, school, and your local health department.

We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect your children, your families, and our staff and their families.

For any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Wisniewski, *Superintendent*

Hartsburg - Emden C.U.S.D. #21

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“Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District provides an empowering and collaborative environment allowing students to reach their full potential.”

