

Important COVID Update: Revised Contact Tracing Procedures Effective March 10, 2022

School superintendents and health departments throughout Ohio recently received an update from the Ohio Department of Education regarding <u>Contract Tracing and Case Investigation/Reporting</u>.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Ohio and across the nation dramatically drop, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is updating systems to monitor COVID-19 community spread in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This will include a shift from daily reporting of cases, hospitalizations, and vaccinations to the public at <u>coronavirus.ohio.gov</u> to weekly reporting on Thursdays beginning the week of March 14.

In addition, ODH is easing requirements for case reporting by K-12 schools effective immediately.

Schools will no longer be required to:

- Maintain a COVID-19 reporting system for parents to report positive COVID-19 cases.
- Have a designated COVID-19 coordinator for the district.
- Notify parents of positive COVID-19 cases among staff, students, or coaches.
- Report positive cases of COVID-19 to their local health department unless the school tests a student for COVID-19 and the result is positive.

As a result of this latest guidance, the Chardon Schools will <u>discontinue all reporting of positive cases</u>. The COVID Dashboard on the school district website will no longer be updated with case and isolation information. I also wish to emphasize that the school district does not test any students for COVID, so the final bullet point is not applicable.

We ask that our families continue to monitor their students for <u>symptoms of COVID</u> and to please keep them home if they are sick. Guidance and protocols related to COVID-19 continue to evolve and change. As this happens, we will continue to review and adjust as needed.

Thank you for your continued support of Chardon and our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph D. Superintendent