Sept 21, 2020

Change to COVID Notification Procedure

Recently I sent a letter stating that, in the event of a positive diagnosis of COVID that we would notify the community by stating the grade of the student/staff where the positive case occurred. After discussion with our legal counsel, we have been advised that we should only notify that there was a positive case in the district and not identify the grade. The reason is that the Federal Education Records Privacy Act forbids any release of an educational record or health information that may identify a student. Based on the long-term absence of a student/staff due to quarantine or recovery, identifying the grade or building could allow others to identify the person through observation of attendance.

Our goal is to be sure the community is informed within the bounds permitted by law. In event of a positive case, all contact tracing and personal notifications will be handled by Knox County Public Health. If you have any questions please call the Superintendent at 740-625-6346.
Centerburg Local COVID Reporting Procedure

In accordance with the Sept 3, 2020 state order, Centerburg Local Schools will use the following procedure.

1. The Centerburg School District COVID coordinator is Superintendent Mike Hebenthal. Contact information is: Phone 740-625-6346. Email mike.hebenthal@centerburgschools.org  Email is checked 7 days a week.

2. Parents or guardians of students and any school staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, whether by laboratory test or through clinical examination are encouraged to notify Centerburg School no later than twenty-four (24) hours after receiving CONFIRMATION diagnosis. This notification can be completed by calling any of the offices of the Centerburg School District or emailing the Superintendent at the email above.  HS/MS office – 740-625-6055, Elem office – 740-625-6488, District Office – 740-625-6346

3. The COVID coordinator shall notify the Knox County Public Health office within 24 hours of receiving notification of a confirmed diagnosis. The name of the person diagnosed and contact information will be provided to the Health Dept.

4. Within twenty-four (24) hours of being informed of a positive diagnosis, the COVID coordinator will notify parents or guardians of students of the existence of a confirmed case. Only the grade of the positive case will be disclosed. No other information can be disclosed due to FERPA and HIPPA laws. This notification will be through the school website, Facebook page, athletic twitter page and the school automated voice notification system.

5. All contact tracing, quarantine requirements, or notifications of effected students or staff will be handled by Knox County Public Health. Any recommendations made to the school by Knox County Public Health will be followed by the district.

6. Effective Sept 15, all County Health Departments are required to report any confirmed diagnosis of school staff or students to the Ohio Dept of Health.

7. This process is to remain in effect until the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies the order.