

To The Lynchburg-Clay School Community:

As many of you know, Highland County is currently experiencing a large increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19. This increase is likely due to the highly contagious Omicron variant of COVID-19 becoming more prevalent in our community and across the world.

In December, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) released new guidelines for quarantine and isolation related to COVID-19. These guidelines are vastly different than before; they include the recommendation of decreased isolation and quarantine periods at home, but also require a period of strict masking after returning to school. **While we welcome these new guidelines, it is important that we establish a system for tracking isolation and masking dates and timelines. We will need time to work on establishing these new timelines as we return from an extended break.**

Here is a link to the new guidelines:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/docs/covid-19-guidance-quarantine.pdf>

Our goal at Lynchburg-Clay is always to keep our students healthy and in school as much as possible. In attempting to keep our students and staff healthy during this time of increasing COVID cases, we will require masks from Monday, January 10th to Friday, January 14th. We believe that this requirement will assist with curtailing the spread of COVID-19 in our community and give our school nurse time to track and communicate directly with parents of students returning from isolation and quarantine next week.

I would also like to remind parents and guardians that ill students should stay home from school. If your child is experiencing symptoms of illness, please keep him/her home from school and contact the school nurse or your primary care provider for further instructions.

Jack Fisher
Superintendent Lynchburg-Clay Local School District