



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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October 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Family Members,

As the pandemic concerns remain, we continue to monitor the health of our students and staff, as well as receive consultation and current data from public health organizations. On October 2, Outagamie County Public Health issued a joint message with local hospital and health care providers expressing a concern regarding the alarming growth in positive numbers in our area. More recently, Governor Evers directed the authoring of Emergency Order #3 limiting indoor public gatherings and reiterating a request to minimize the size of outdoor gatherings.

Today, we learned of the drastic increase in the numbers of positive cases from public health officials from Winnebago, Calumet, and Outagamie Counties. ThedaCare representatives attending this same meeting echoed the concern, noting a continued strain on the availability of care, especially hospital beds, with nearly 40% of tests returning with a positive outcome. Informal gatherings where masking and social distancing are not observed is seen as a leading cause of the growth in positive numbers for school agers through young adults.

At our Homecoming game on October 2, we saw way too many children in middle school and younger playing football and other games on the grassy area and playground without masks and well within 6' distance of one another for prolonged periods of time. At points throughout the evening, middle schooler students were on top of each other in a very active game of football. Unfortunately, this type of behavior is exactly what promotes the exposure to each other's respiratory droplets, which serves to exacerbate the transference of the virus.

In light of all of this information, and in keeping with our constant efforts to keep our students and staff healthy such that we can maintain in-person academic instruction and co-curricular participation, we have determined our most effective course of action is to limit the fans able to attend the October 16, 2020 home football game **to persons in Grade 9 and older only**. Congregation on the middle school football field and playground will not be allowed. Additionally, we are requesting that **all fans wear masks** when attending the game. These limitations will be effective for both home and away fans.

I understand this change may be challenging to accept, especially since gathering under the Friday night lights to cheer on the Chiefs and catch up with friends across the ages is such a tradition for us here in Shiocton. Unfortunately, we are in the midst of continued pandemic concerns, which requires a prioritizing of efforts. Our priority will continue to be placed on taking the actions we need to in order to keep students and staff healthy so that in-person learning, including co-curricular activities, can continue.

We greatly appreciate your understanding of these changes and willingness to comply as you seek to cheer on our Chiefs Friday night. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either one of us.

Yours in Education,


Nichole J. Schweitzer
District Administrator


Amy Austin
School Nurse


Dom Gunderson
Athletic Director

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