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# Byron Area Schools

November 3, 2021

Dear Parents of Byron **Middle School** and **High School** students,

I'd like to thank you for your help keeping our students safe and our schools open by keeping at home anyone who displayed COVID like symptoms. In a letter I wrote to you last month asking for your help, I explained how illnesses could affect the operations of the school. I also described the process we would use to rapid test quarantined students who were identified as a close contact. Because of your diligence and the testing process we've been able to keep a large majority of students in school and keep the schools open.

Unfortunately in just three (3) days this week we have had so many COVID-19 positive cases amongst our **Middle School** students that after contact tracing we've identified a very large majority of students as having to quarantine. In an effort to stem the further spread of illness amongst our **Middle School students** I see no alternative but to **temporarily close the Middle School building from Thursday, Nov. 4 through Friday, Nov. 12** to separate students and do an extensive cleaning of the building by our custodians.

- **All Middle School students** will receive on-line instruction from their teachers during the next seven (7) school days. Students who do not have internet access and need hardcopies of materials should contact the office.
- **All Middle School** athletics and after school events are cancelled and will resume Tuesday, Nov. 16.
- Monday, Nov. 15 is a district-wide professional development day so students are not scheduled for classes.
- **The Middle School building will reopen for students to resume in-person learning on Tuesday, Nov. 16.**

**The High School** teaching staff is not immune to illness either. This week the spread of illness amongst our teachers has reached such a high level that there aren't enough substitutes available to work with students. So, I've no other choice but to **temporarily suspend in-person instruction for High School students.**

- The **High School** building will be closed **Thursday, Nov. 4 and Friday, Nov. 5.**
- **All High School students** will receive on-line instruction from their teachers during the next two (2) school days. Students who do not have internet access and need hardcopies of materials should contact the office.
- **The High School building will reopen for in-person learning on Monday, Nov. 8.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to continue educating students while also taking steps to provide a safe learning and work environment for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Bob Cassiday, Superintendent  
Byron Area Schools