

January 7, 2022

Good Evening Jaguar Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff,

As you know, we decided to close our school Wednesday through Friday of this week due to the post-holiday COVID-19 surge that increased case numbers across the Toledo area and within our Jaguar community. During our closure, the HSAT Administration has been monitoring the positive case counts in Lucas County while also communicating with officials at the Lucas County Health Department. **At this time, HSAT will reopen on Monday, January 10th, 2022 for in-person instruction.**

HSAT understands the emotional and academic advantage experienced by students when they are able to attend in-person learning in our building. Additionally, collected data confirms that schools are amongst the safest places for our students to be regarding the spread of COVID-19. Research and data reflects that the isolation of a virtual learning format has an adverse impact on students' mental health and has detrimentally impacted the academic achievement gap. Medical experts across the country affirm that the benefits of in-person learning far outweigh the risks.

If at any time student safety were to be outweighed by the advantage of in-person learning, and it becomes necessary to make any changes to our current plan due to escalating student positive case counts, or COVID-related staffing shortages, we will notify you as soon as possible.

As we prepare to return on Monday, please review these mitigation reminders:

Masks

We will continue with our existing mask mandate.

Please send your child to school with a mask. We will continue to have masks on hand should you not be able to send one with your child.

Reporting Illness

Safety begins at home. If your child is sick, he/she should stay home. Please notify our Health Aide, Mrs. Yates and your health care provider if your student is experiencing COVID symptoms.

If your student, or anyone in your home, should test positive for COVID-19, please report that information to Mrs. Yates as soon as possible. Accurate reporting of COVID cases among our students and staff is critical to helping us make timely, yet effective decisions about the potential need to quarantine students or staff members.

The CDC released new guidelines for individuals exposed to Covid-19.

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

Vaccination

We urge those of you who are eligible to be vaccinated to take advantage of the opportunity to do so as an additional way of protecting your health and the health of those around you.

We are most grateful for your understanding, flexibility, and support during this past week and as we continue to work together in partnership moving forward. Have a safe, healthy, and happy weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the school building on Monday!

Best,
Mrs. Rachel Snyder
Principal, Horizon Science Academy Toledo

