

WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103

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Mr. Guy W. Gradert, Superintendent
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October 30, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that an individual at West Prairie Middle School has tested positive for COVID-19. We are coordinating our efforts with McDonough County Health Department to promptly identify and monitor individuals who have had recent contact with the COVID-19 positive individual(s) to prevent further spread within our school and community. The health and safety of West Prairie students and staff is our highest priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the state and local health departments for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health.

To prevent further spread of the disease, West Prairie is taking the following steps:

- Placing staff members and students who are identified as having prolonged close contact to the COVID-19 case(s) in quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts will also receive a separate notification from the McDonough County Health Department.

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, as previously directed and per school policy.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in contact with children and other staff in the facility.
- We are continuously sanitizing high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc.
- We are teaching students the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing.
- As we receive more information from the Department of Public Health and other entities, we will implement additional recommendations and guidelines.

We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect your children, your families, and our staff and their families.

Sincerely,



Guy W. Gradert
Superintendent