District Office
501 West Sickels Street
St. Johns, MI 48879
Telephone: 989.227.4050
Fax: 989.227.4099
www.sjredwings.org

September 17, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you well and that your family has had a great start to the school year. Unfortunately, we have had several instances of students with COVID-19 coming into our buildings during the first few weeks of school. As with any school year, I would like to remind you to keep your child home if he/she is feeling ill. We would like students with any communicable illness to remain at home until the incubation period is over, especially early on with any illness.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Cough; fever or chills; muscle or body aches; fatigue; headache; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; diarrhea; nausea or vomiting, new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; and congestion or runny nose

If your child exhibits any of these symptoms and there is no other known reason such as allergies, it is recommended that your child be tested for COVID-19. These tests can be done for free at many facilities in the greater Lansing area. Students testing negative may return to school once they are fever, diarrhea and vomiting free for at least 24 hours. If positive for COVID-19, then follow the advice of a medical professional before returning to school.

Last week I wrote to you about options if your child is considered a close contact from an exposure at school and placed in quarantine. One of the options was to test daily before going to class each day. We now have tests available in all of our buildings. It is expected, at the elementary level, that a parent/guardian be present to perform the test on their child if this option is chosen. Parents of Middle School and High School students will need to sign a form giving the school permission to test their child. The test that the district has is the rapid antigen tests that will show results within ten minutes.

These continue to be challenging times for us all. As always, thank you for your cooperation and working with the school district as we work together to develop successful and productive young people.

Sincerely,

Mark Palmer
Superintendent