

# North Branch Area Schools

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James D. Fish  
Superintendent

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Re: Positive Covid-19 Cases

Dear North Branch Parents & Guardians,

The Ruth Fox Middle School and North Branch Elementary received news an individual in each building tested positive for COVID-19. Both individuals have not been in the district since Monday, April 5. North Branch Area Schools, in partnership with the Lapeer County Health Department, conducted contact tracing to identify anyone considered a close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes). Those individuals have been contacted directly and will be required to quarantine per our health and safety guidelines.

**In addition, yesterday I shared that the Lapeer County Health Department recently notified all county schools of a change in quarantine policy from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Due to increasing case rates and variant spread in Michigan, MDHHS has reinstated a standard 14-day quarantine for all individuals considered closed contacts to a positive Covid-19 person. *This means that any student or staff member identified as a close contact will not be permitted to return to school until 14 days after the last contact with the positive person.***

We will continue to work diligently in providing a safe learning environment for teachers, staff, and students. We remind all of our families to prevent the spread of COVID-19, individuals should do the following:

- Do not attend school if you are sick
- Frequent handwashing helps prevent the spread of the virus
- Avoid touching your face and shaking hands with others
- Continue to follow the guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of clean masks
- **If a person in your household is being tested for COVID-19, please keep your students home until the results come back which are taking 1-3 days. We have had to pull too many students out of the classroom because a family member's test came back positive. Thank you for your cooperation.**

The health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff remain our top priority. Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we will get through these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Jim Fish, Superintendent  
North Branch Area Schools