

Timberlake Parents and Guardians,

I was set to inform everyone in a message this evening that our faculty member that was awaiting results received a negative Covid-19 result today. We felt this would allow us to carry on like we have with the lack of cases related to Timberlake. Unfortunately, we have since received word that a 3rd grade student has tested positive on a Rapid Covid-19 test. Do keep in mind that these rapid tests have a high fail rate and there has been a PCR test administered which will give conclusive results. In the meantime, we must treat this like a positive case. It is also worth noting that multiple elementary students either stayed home or went home sick today with gastrointestinal symptoms. I have received confirmation from the health department that there is a "gastrointestinal bug" going around, but these symptoms can also be consistent with those of Covid-19. For these reasons, Timberlake will be taking the following precautions beginning Monday:

- 3rd Grade students will move to their virtual education plan beginning Monday with a return date set for September 9th, unless a positive PCR test is returned for the afflicted student. This quarantine is a recommendation of the health department who will be conducting a contact tracing investigation and ordering the quarantine unless a negative test result is returned.
- The entire elementary site will begin virtual instruction on Monday with the hopes of receiving results early in the week. Virtual instruction will continue through AT LEAST Tuesday, September 1st with the hopes of returning all but the 3rd grade class to in-person instruction on September 2nd. This could be extended based on the testing status of the identified student, as well as others that have symptoms.
- We strongly recommend that symptomatic students be tested as soon as possible to assist in determining the severity of the situation at Timberlake. It is in the best interest of all involved if the school is informed of these test results as soon as possible. The Garfield County Health Department informed me that they are doing "pod testing" on Wednesday morning from 7 am to noon. This is the earliest that they have testing available but they recommend scheduling as soon as possible because slots are limited. The phone number is (580) 233-0650. Negative tests are our quickest way to get back to normal.
- The JH/HS site had a 100% attendance rate today so we believe that instruction and activities should continue as scheduled barring additional information. We will be moving to the recommendations of the state to require masks for both students and staff for the time being. The school is providing two reusable masks for any student that wants them and they will be available upon arrival to the school or in school vehicles for

morning routes. There will be opportunities for masks to be taken off when appropriate. This will be further explained to staff and students on Monday morning.

Our hope is that these measures will limit the impact of the virus on our students and community. Even if there are no positive test results, the two day closing of the elementary will allow facilities to be thoroughly cleaned and give administration more data to make an informed decision on how to move forward. It may also help contain the stomach bug if that is the primary issue at hand. We will continue to update all involved as more information becomes available.

Elementary staff will be working hard to get materials and devices ready for students by late morning on Monday. Meals will be available for curbside pickup at either school site for families that wish to receive them at noon on Monday and any additional days needed. Parents MUST call the school by 9 am to place their order for meals. Lunch for the day of pickup, and breakfast for the following day will be provided during the noon pickup. Packets, assignments, and/or devices can also be picked up with meals. Students not receiving meals will have these items delivered to their door by Timberlake Elementary staff. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and understand how difficult this might be for working families. Our sole purpose is to ensure the safety and well being of our staff and students and it is my sincere hope that we can get back to class as usual very soon.

Sincerely,

Kale Pierce

Superintendent

Timberlake Public Schools