

Good afternoon Mancos parents,

This update is in response to the increase in Omicron COVID cases with students and staff this semester. Mancos School District is experiencing a growth in students and staff that are COVID positive with less severe symptoms, which is consistent with Omicron cases nationally. Currently, we have 15 positive COVID cases in our school district, which calculates $(15/555)$ to a 2.7% positivity rate. While this number is significant, it does not cause a course correction. Our current concern is that Mancos School District has nine (9) staff ill, with five of those being COVID confirmed and one other in quarantine. The absence of these staff members has maxed out our pool of available substitute teachers. Therefore, if you would like to be a substitute teacher, we can train you within a two-hour session for the classroom. Please call me directly or reach out to your school secretary to sign up to be a substitute teacher.

Now, let's consider the worst-case scenario. If we have an additional 5-10 staff out with COVID or the flu, we would be forced to go to remote learning for a week or two until staff recovers. Simply said, we would not have enough teachers or substitute teachers for our classrooms. As of today, 42% of our staff has had or currently has COVID, and herd immunity is being developed within our staff and community. Since we have more cases this semester, it became essential to determine the severity of each patient, which is why we tracked symptoms of COVID cases of students and staff for the last two weeks. Below is the survey tool and the results.

Symptom Severity guide: How would you rate your symptoms from previous illness experience before COVID?

In the COVID era, we ask staff and students to stay home if they have COVID symptoms.

Extreme		In the past before COVID, I would go to the hospital or emergency care.
Significant		In the past before COVID, I would stay home until better.
Moderate		In the past before COVID, I may go to school or work.
Slight		In the past before COVID, I would go to school and work.
None		In the past before COVID, I would get no treatment.

Family member +	Tested?	Fever	Cough	Breathing	Fatigue	Body aches	Headache	Taste or smell	Sore throat	Congestion	Nausea	Diarrhea
No	No response	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Significant	None	None
Yes	SWMH	Slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	None	None
Yes	SWMH	Slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	None	None
Yes	Home	Moderate	None	None	Slight	None	Slight	None	None	None	None	None
No	No response	None	Slight	None	Slight	None	None	None	Slight	Moderate	None	None
No	No response	None	Slight	None	None	None	None	None	None	Slight	None	None
Yes	Yes	Moderate	Significant	Slight	Significant	Moderate	Significant	Slight	Significant	Significant	Slight	Slight
Yes	School	Slight	Moderate	None	None	None	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	None	None
Yes	School	Slight	None	Slight	Moderate	None	Moderate	None	None	Slight	None	Slight
Yes	School	None	Slight	None	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	None	Moderate	None
Yes	Home	Significant	Slight	None	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	None	None
Yes	Walgreens	Moderate	Slight	None	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	None	Slight	Slight	None	None
Yes	Home test	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	None	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Slight
NO	Home	Significant	significant	sight	moderate	slight	slight	extreme	extreme	sight	moderate	significant
No response	Home	Significant	moderate	sight	moderate	significant	moderate	none	none	none	none	none

In addition, we are also closely watching student attendance for the last two Mondays.

1.24.22				1.17.22			
	Elementary	MS	HS		Elementary	M S	HS
Covid (quarantine and ill)	12	7	2	Covid (quarantine and ill)	14	5	6
Sick	8	9	5	Sick	15	4	6
Other	7	6	5	Other	9	9	15
	27	22	12		38	18	27
			61				83

The best ways to decrease COVID cases and severe symptoms are (1) getting vaccinated and (2) staying home when you have symptoms. Therefore, to serve our students, staff, and the community, Mancos School District will support a 5th vaccination clinic this school year on Saturday, February 05, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Furthermore, Mancos School District

will continue with its mitigation protocols such as air filtration units in all student spaces, optional masking for staff and students, test kits available from the school district nurse, direct communication with the county health department for all positive cases, weekly updates from the school district nurse, contact tracing for all infected students and staff with notifications, routine disinfecting of school facilities, visitor symptoms screening at the front desk, students symptom screening at home by parents, weekly testing program, optional vaccination clinics, hand sanitizer in all classrooms, and outside class lessons when possible and appropriate.

The purpose of this email is to keep you fully informed and to allow you to prepare for any potential changes to our mitigation protocols. To be 100% transparent, our goal is to stay with in-person instruction for the entire school year since that is best for students and learning. Additionally, we are committed to your child's social and emotional experience and will do everything in our power to cultivate a positive school culture. Please call, text, or email me directly if you have any questions. I appreciate your trust and the value we share for a Mancos School District education.

Respectfully,
Todd Cordrey
Mancos School District, Superintendent

