



ST. MARY SCHOOL
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Dear St. Mary School community,

I'm writing to inform you that a student in our school tested positive for covid-19 on Saturday. The school was informed Monday morning when the parent called to report that the student would not be coming to school. The student had not shown any symptoms before being tested; the test was performed because another member of the student's household was tested at work and the test came back positive. When we received this news, we immediately consulted with the Marion County Health Department. Although this is still officially a *presumed case* of covid-19, it was determined that anyone considered to have had "close contact" with the student during a period of 48 hours prior to the positive test result should quarantine for fourteen days, unless different instructions are given in the future by Marion County Public Health. Those affected include four students in the same classroom as the presumed case, and several students in other grades who were on the same bus with the affected student on Thursday or Friday of last week. Out of an abundance of caution, we have moved the affected classroom to remote learning, effective immediately. The classroom teacher will work from home, instructing the students via Digital Academy. Those students and their teacher should plan to return to school for in-person instruction on Monday, November 30. Additionally, the parents of the students in other grades who are considered "close contacts" because of where they sat on the bus have been contacted. Those students will also stay home and participate in remote learning, and plan to return to school in person on Monday, November 30.

We remain in close contact with the Marion County Health Department as the covid-19 situation in our county continues to evolve. During this very unusual school year, we have seen the benefits and advantages of in-person instruction, five days a week. At the same time, we have been and continue to be prepared to switch to a virtual learning strategy if that becomes necessary.

This is a good time to remind everyone of the importance of taking your child's temperature and monitoring their health symptoms, and keeping them home if they are sick, as stipulated in our parent/student handbook. If you need to report positive covid-19 test results of a student or family member, outside of school hours, please email school@marionstmary.org or call the school office at 740-382-1607 and leave a message.

Father Thomas Buffer
Pastor/Principal

Mrs. Kathy Bramel
School Administrative Manager