

## Lewis Cass Intermediate School District

Learning For All...Whatever It Takes

61682 Dailey Road Cassopolis, Michigan 49031-9648 www.lewiscassisd.org

January 15, 2021

Dear Lewis Cass ISD/Sam Adams GSRP parents, staff, and community members:

Today we received notification that a child associated with our Great Start Readiness Program at Sam Adams Elementary School tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the individual involved, we believe it is best to communicate transparently with you so you can make well-informed decisions for your family. The exposure affects both GSRP classrooms at Sam Adams in Cassopolis, but it did not affect anyone in Cassopolis Public Schools transportation or in any other part of Sam Adams Elementary School.

There is nothing more important to Lewis Cass ISD than the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, our staff, and their families. Know that we are working directly with county health officials to address this situation. This child had contact with the teaching staff and children in both classrooms that will require all exposed to guarantine for 14 days.

Both Sam Adams GSRP classrooms will be closed from January 19-January 29, 2021 and will operate with a Remote Learning Model with a plan to return to school on February 1, 2021.

COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, it is important to be sensible but vigilant. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever, cough and shortness of breath. A complete list of symptoms is available on the Van Buren Cass District Health Department website at <a href="www.vbcassdhd.org">www.vbcassdhd.org</a>. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, please contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Lewis Cass ISD will work with Sam Adams Elementary staff to clean and disinfect surfaces inside the affected classrooms immediately. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, it is important to remain vigilant. The CDC recommends the following best practices to help prevent the spread:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Stay at home, if possible
- Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people
- Avoid gatherings that include more than 10 people.



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Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff and community members. Please continue to take necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. Remain calm and be empathic and respectful to those affected.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. If an individual suspects they have COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home and take one of the following steps:

- Call their primary care provider (PCP) via telephone
- Do a virtual visit with their health system/provider
- If symptoms are life-threatening, call 9-1-1

## **Care Advisor Phone Numbers and Webpages**

Bronson (269) 341-7788 www.bronsonhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19

Ascension Borgess (833) 978-0649 www.healthcare.ascension.org

Spectrum Health Lakeland (616) 391-2380 www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/covid19

InterCare Health Network (855) 869-6980 www.intercare.org/covid-19.html

For the health and safety of our children,

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Christine G. Whitmire

**Director of Early Childhood Education**