

ORIGINAL- August 2020

UPDATE- 9/13/2020

Canton Local School District Families,

As we look forward to the 2020-2021 school year, we know that you have many questions and concerns. Please be assured the health and safety of students is our #1 priority. The purpose of this letter is to share with each of you the procedures that are being implemented to help in the prevention and spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. These procedures are based on the current CDC recommendations and protocols established by the Stark County Health Department. All are subject to change as we receive new information from our local health authorities.

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm to introduce our District Nurses for Canton Local Schools.

- **Lori Serafini BSN, RN** has been a District Nurse for Canton Locals Schools for 17 years, and has 31 years of nursing experience.
- **Shannon Heaton, BSN RN** comes to us from Akron Children's Hospital School Health Services with over 4 years of school nursing experience, and 10 years of nursing experience.

We Can Help!

COVID-19 has created many changes from the norm. To help your student(s) better understand this virus, Akron Children's Hospital has videos posted to their public with education regarding face mask etiquette, hand hygiene, social distancing, and cross contamination with the use of gloves.

Face Mask Etiquette: <https://youtu.be/1K9Zs16dhRE>

Hand Washing: <https://youtu.be/Cw4h-4WEpHg>

Hand Sanitizing: <https://youtu.be/YylsSjxHJdQ>

Social Distancing: What is Six Feet?: <https://youtu.be/OesXL3I6M4s>

Cross Contamination and Gloves: <https://youtu.be/SGvVNFw1Egs>

General Clinic Reminders

- All students are encouraged to get an annual well-child visit with your child's health care provider. In addition to performing a physical exam and reviewing any necessary immunizations (vaccinations) your child needs, it is important to talk to your provider about your child's growth, development, behavior and how to handle sudden illness this school year. If your child does not have a healthcare provider, please contact your child's school clinic to be assisted with a referral.

- Please provide up-to-date required **Immunization Records** to the District Nurse for:
 1. All new students for any grade
 2. Incoming Preschool and Kindergarten students
 3. 7th grade (Tdap/MCV4)
 4. 12th grade (MCV4)

- **Emergency Medical Authorization Form** must be filled out at the beginning of each school year. This form should be completed online at the beginning of the year when accessing your child's **First Day Forms** on the Canton Local website. If updated information is needed on this form at any time during the school year please contact your building secretary.

- In order for your student to be given medication during the school day, you must complete a **Prescription Medication Administration Authorization Form** or a **Non-Prescription Form**. To obtain these forms, please go to the Canton Local Schools District website, click on the Parents tab, then click on Medication Forms. This form must be filled out at the beginning of each school year in order for medication to be administered at school.

- For your child's safety, medications are **NOT** to be sent to school with students in their book bag or on the bus. **All medications (Prescription and Non-Prescription) must be dropped off by an adult over the age of 18.**

- If your student has medical concerns such as severe allergies, asthma, seizures, or diabetes, please update your **ACTION PLANS** and Physician Orders prior to the start of school and review with the District Nurse. Revisions of the plan should occur any time new recommendations are offered by your healthcare provider.

Please drop off all medical related forms to the District Nurse or Building Secretary during school hours.

Daily Health Assessment Check-In

REMEMBER, keeping your student at home when ill is key to preventing the spread of germs!

ALL persons (staff, students, visitors) are asked to complete a daily health check prior to coming to school. Please make sure you own a reliable thermometer. A person should not come to school or remain at school under any circumstances if she/he displays any of the following:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit ● Cough ● Shortness of breath/ Difficulty breathing ● Loss of taste/smell ● Sore throat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nasal congestion/Runny nose ● Body aches ● New loss of taste and/or smell ● Diarrhea/Nausea/Vomiting ● Tiredness/Muscle or Body Aches ● Headache ● Abdominal Pain/Stomach Ache |
|---|--|

Any one of these symptoms alone or in combination indicates a person may have a COVID-19 infection, resulting in immediate medical isolation and dismissal from school. Having these symptoms does not mean your child has COVID-19, as **this is a screening tool not a diagnostic tool.**

Canton Local students living in the same residence will be asked to stay home until the student with symptoms is cleared to return to school.

We recommend that students, families, and school districts plan for illness-related school exclusion to occur in students through the course of this school year. **It is essential that every family has a plan for picking up an ill child within 60 minutes and that all contact information is current.**

Hygiene Practices at School

Throughout the school day, teachers and staff members will:

- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices.
- Maximize social distancing when possible.
- Children will be required to wash their hands frequently during the day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Hand sanitizers will be at all entrances to the building and in individual classrooms.
- As required for schools in the state of Ohio, school staff and students are to wear a mask that snugly covers their nose and mouth.
- Recess will be outside when weather permits. The playground area along with the equipment are closed at this time.
- Cleaning protocols throughout the school buildings have been enhanced focusing on frequently touched surfaces during the school day.

Procedure for Return to School

ALL Students with COVID-19 like symptoms must do one of the following to safely return to school:

- Provide documentation of RETURN TO SCHOOL NOTE signed by a healthcare provider THAT INCLUDES DATE THE STUDENT MAY RETURN.
- For a student dismissed from school with COVID-19 symptoms who do not provide a **Safe to Return to School Note** from their healthcare provider, the following must occur prior to school re-entry.
 - The student has had at least 1-day (24 hours) fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications (like Ibuprofen or Tylenol);

AND

- improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
- **AND**
- **at least 10 days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Canton Local students that are living in the same residence (siblings, friends, etc) will be permitted to return to school once the student with symptoms has met the above criteria along with remaining symptom free.

Please notify school within 24 hours of receiving a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19.

Within 24 hours of becoming aware of a student or staff member who has a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19, Canton Local will notify parents or guardians of the existence of a positive case.

COVID-19 is a Class A reportable disease. We will communicate with our Stark County Health Department officials when students or staff members have tested positive and will fully cooperate with their guidance.

We will adhere to all isolation and quarantine periods at the recommendations of the Stark County Health Department authorities.

Have a safe and healthy school year!

Lori Serafini BSN, RN

Faircrest Middle School 330-484-8015
Canton South High School 330-484-8000

Shannon Heaton BSN, RN

Walker Elementary 330-484-2020