



Kalkaska Public Schools

Terry J. Starr, Superintendent

November 13, 2020

Dear Birch Street School Community,

As noted on our COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://www.kpschools.com/vnews/display.v/SEC/About%20Us%7cDistrict%20Information%3e%3eTransparency> on November 13, 2020 we learned about at least one School Associated Case of COVID-19 to a student or staff person at Birch Street Elementary. Cleaning and disinfecting of the exposed location(s) will continue.

Birch Street Elementary School will remain closed to in-person learning and shift to at-home learning beginning Monday, November 16th, 2020. The school will re-open to in-person learning Monday, November 30th, 2020. We are working closely with the MDHHS #10 District County Health Department to identify Close Contacts of School Associated Cases of COVID-19. Anyone identified as a Close Contact will be notified by the health department as a part of the COVID-19 investigation process. Please answer the phone if the health department contacts you, as a contact tracer may be trying to reach you with important information.

We recommend taking action to help limit the spread of COVID-19, even if staff members or students are not experiencing symptoms:

- **Wear a mask** (covering mouth and nose) while in public places or if people who do not live with you must visit your home.
- **Practice social distancing** (maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart).
- **Practice frequent handwashing** (using soap for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol).
- **Follow [capacity restrictions](#)** of social gatherings.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes** with a tissue or with the inside of your elbow and immediately wash your hands.
- **Stay home if you are sick**; you can also [get tested](#).

Thank you for understanding that, due to medical privacy laws, we are not able to release the names of the individuals with COVID-19. We will continue to communicate changes and updates with you. With your participation, we believe we can maintain a safe environment while also providing quality education.

If you have any questions, contact MDHHS #10 District County Health Department at 258-8669. For answers to your COVID-19 questions, please call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 or visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Starr, Superintendent