



St. Mary's School

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Families, students, and staff:

Tonight I am sharing news of important information we expect to be announced by the Governor's office tomorrow.

As you know, St. Mary's School has worked closely with the Delaware County Department of Public Health to implement required protocols for handling cases of COVID-19, including rules about quarantine for students exposed to positive cases. Those protocols are directed by the Iowa Department of Public Health, and we are required under the law to implement them. The protocols are based on what is currently known about COVID-19, and as knowledge of the pandemic changes, so will the procedures for how to address it. The ultimate goal is to keep everyone healthy and stop the spread of the virus in our community.

Tonight we have learned that there may be changes to the quarantine procedures we must follow. There will be a Governor's announcement tomorrow to share specific details. It is likely that the new rules will allow us to shorten or eliminate the quarantine for some students who were exposed at school, especially if they were wearing masks.

Delaware County positivity rate is still high, at 17.4%. Now more than ever, our mitigation strategies will remain very important. These include cohorting, spacing desks as much as possible, limiting grouping, restricting visitors, increased cleaning protocols, use of face coverings, and much more. These will help us to keep everyone healthy, especially as the quarantine rules are changing.

Thank you for your support of St. Mary's School as we work together to continue instruction and meet the needs of students during this very challenging time!

Sincerely,

Kelley Harbach, Principal