

# **ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.**

February 18, 2022

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff, and Students,

Yesterday, the Indiana Department of Health announced that the Covid-19 pandemic is transitioning into the “endemic” phase. This means that the presence of Covid-19 infections are expected to continue in the future without being as closely monitored by the Department of Health. Because of this, many of our Covid-19 restrictions and mitigation strategies are no longer necessary practices. Effective February 23, 2022, students who are considered close contacts to a positive case will no longer need to quarantine, unless they become sick. Additionally, masking in the classroom is no longer required, however masking on the bus remains a federal mandate that will continue until we are advised otherwise.

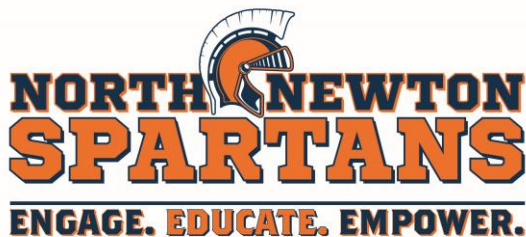
In light of this announcement, contact tracing and quarantine can be considered a thing of the past! If you receive a notification that your child is a close contact to someone that has tested positive, they will no longer need to be sent home from school. Please closely monitor for symptoms and seek testing as needed. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, they should isolate for 5 days and return on day 6, wearing a well-fitting mask for days 6-10. If they do not wish to wear a mask upon return, they would simply need to remain isolated for the full 10 days and would be able to return on the 11<sup>th</sup> day. Siblings or close contacts to a positive case at home will no longer be required to quarantine, but would need to be monitored for symptoms and tested as needed.

While it seems that we may be approaching the end of the stress and chaos from the last 2 years, we still need your support and participation to get us through what remains ahead. Please keep you child home if they are sick. If your child becomes sick while at school, you will be contacted to come and pick them up.

We will continue to monitor for the release of additional information and notify you as things continue to evolve.

Thank you. Stay healthy!

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