

December 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Cobb County Students:

Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) has been working diligently with the Cobb County School District to keep students, teachers and staff as safe as possible during this pandemic.

We recently had the highest one-day number of cases for COVID-19 in our county and state since the beginning of the pandemic. We are seeing the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 continue to increase and hospitals continuing to be very full during this surge.

We, at CDPH, understand the need for students to be in schools, and we are working as hard as possible to identify infected students and staff and their close contacts to keep them from infecting others in the school. At this point, we have seen little in-school transmission, but we do see weekly increases in the number of cases coming back positive in the school system from outside the school.

We ask that parents and community members do their part to help us keep this virus from spreading further out of control. We are seeing more and more cases that are occurring outside of school in settings, such as slumber parties, athletic teams, holiday parties and social gatherings. We ask that you and your families are diligent about wearing your mask and keeping your distance. We also ask that you try to limit the amount of contact that your family members have with those outside of your immediate families. The case rate is too high to let our guard down.

Although the vaccine gives us a glimmer of hope, it will be months before we can vaccinate the general population. Please help us to keep this virus from spreading further out of control by doing everything we can as a community,

As always, we appreciate your assistance during this pandemic and look forward to a day without COVID-19.

For more information, please visit <u>http://www.cobbanddouglaspublichealth.com/</u> and <u>https://dph.georgia.gov/</u>.

Janet Pak Memark M.D., M.P.H, F.A.C.P. District Health Director District 3-1: Cobb & Douglas Public Health