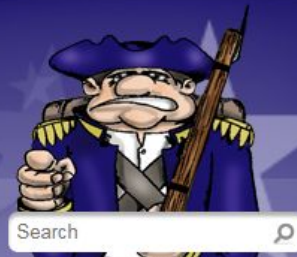


# CARTHAGE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

District 317



January 18, 2021

Confirmed Case #14

A Message from the Carthage Elementary School District #317 and the Hancock County Health Department:

The Hancock County Health Department is reporting a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Carthage Elementary School District #317, specifically within the Carthage Middle School. The Hancock County Health Department and the Carthage Elementary School District #317 are sharing this information to provide education, ease uncertainty and suppress rumors. Rest assured the school district is working very closely with the Hancock County Health Department and has conducted contact tracing and has contacted or will shortly contact those who were close contacts to the individual, in an effort to reduce the risk of additional transmission.

*It is also important to note that the 'confirmed cases' number above also represents a cumulative number of cases within our district for students, staff, and faculty. It is also important to note that the 'confirmed cases' number above are a cumulative representation of cases within our district. Therefore this number does not reflect active cases currently within the district.*

The Carthage Elementary School District #317 is following the recommended CDC guidelines to clean and disinfect the facility. Individuals contacted by the school district who may have been exposed should monitor for symptoms and contact their healthcare provider or the Memorial Illness Clinic at 217-357-0617 to determine if a COVID-19 test should be performed. Symptoms reported among patients with COVID-19 include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of sense of taste and or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

The Hancock County Health Department and the Carthage Elementary School District #317 strongly urges people to take COVID-19 seriously. It is everyone's responsibility to help reduce the spread of illness. People should cover their cough and sneezes, wash hands with soap and warm water and stay home if they are ill. In addition, in public, face coverings should be worn when a 6 feet distance cannot be maintained.

As always, we will keep you updated and informed. Our school district, the health department, and our parents are doing an amazing job during these difficult times. Transparency and openness are critical. If additional positive cases are confirmed within the school district, parents and guardians will be contacted. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 217-357-3922 (Primary), 217-357-3914 (Middle), or the Hancock Health Department at 217-357-2171.

Mr. Snowden, Principal  
Carthage Primary School

Miss Nason, Principal  
Carthage Middle School