



October 22, 2020

LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The questions in this document were submitted to Mr. Ron Graham, the Lake County General Health District's Health Commissioner, for clarification and for advice regarding the district's reopening on October 26, 2020. Willoughby-Eastlake is grateful for the assistance given by the health department.

1. Now that Lake County has moved to Level 3, red, what recommendation do you have for the district regarding students returning to the classroom?

It is my recommendation that you continue to operate in the same manner that you are currently operating. If the state or county feel that it is unsafe in schools, we will take action. Remain confident that the safeguards we have will get us through this. It is as safe as it can be for students and staff.

I would ask that if your children do not feel right, exhibit symptoms or they are ill, please keep them at home.

2. According to the data, Lake County cases of COVID-19 have risen. Do you believe that the State of Ohio will continue to move in this direction?

Lake County is doing better than most counties in the state in regards to infection rate. Other factors such as ICU/CCU counts also go into the decision-making process. Presently none of the indicators indicate a need to change school operations and classroom instruction from your current operations.

3. What do you believe you will see in Lake County as the cold and flu season arrives?

With the onset of cold and flu season, there will be a reluctance to test for flu vs COVID-19 and this will contribute to confusion. This will most likely cause an increase in what may be reported as COVID-19.

4. Is there a possibility of the governor making a recommendation, issuing an order or giving school districts direction?

I do not believe the Governor will issue an order at this point as a majority of the community spread is happening outside of the classroom. I would caution people from letting down their guard. Many exposures are happening at small gatherings such as a bonfire in a friend's backyard. Please be cautious in all settings.

5. How safe are schools remaining in-person at Level 3?

The alert levels are somewhat arbitrary and do not always reflect the risk of COVID-19 in specific areas. Very few, if any outbreaks have occurred due to classroom exposure. The source of many infections appears to be at small gatherings, family get-togethers and travel.

6. Will school districts be expected to continue to contact trace and quarantine students and staff members that are exposed to COVID-19?

Yes

7. Based on the current cases recorded in Lake County, what do you recommend for Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools?

Based on the current protocols that your district has in place, we would recommend that you continue to follow those protocols and allow students to return to the classroom on Monday. We will continue to work with you to quarantine students and staff when it is necessary due to any exposures of COVID-19.