



STATEMENT FROM GENERAL MCLANE SCHOOL DISTRICT

From General McLane School District Superintendent Richard Scaletta

October 26, 2020

“I want to first explain what the Erie County Health Department calls a ‘probable case.’ There are a number of simultaneous conditions that will define a probable case but the most likely is a person who was a close contact of a confirmed positive who then develops COVID-like symptoms. Testing is not always ordered in those cases but the person is dubbed as ‘probable’ and treated as a COVID-19 positive.

The Health Department has informed us that we have a probable student at the high school. The student was not in school for four days prior to symptoms so no contact tracing was necessary, as there was no danger of transmission. The source of that student’s contact was a family member from outside the community.

I would like to ask parents to communicate with us anytime one of your children is going to be tested for COVID-19. While we don’t need to do contact tracing until someone receives positive results, early communication helps us respond quickly and efficiently. We work closely with the Health Department on all cases, but we are their ‘boots on the ground’ and can react swiftly if we are alerted early in the process.

National studies are showing that most transmissions of COVID-19 to school age children is occurring from adult-to-student, not student-to-adult, nor student-to-student. Our experience so far at GM is representative of that finding, so I do want to remind all of us adults that our diligence in masking and observing social distancing as we go about our lives and engage in social settings, may be the most important factor to keep in-person learning possible for our children. Please, stay 6 feet away from others whenever possible and wear a mask.

We will be back again on Thursday at 11:30 with Facebook Live, where our focus will be mental health.

All parents and families in the District received this communication via phone call home on Monday, October 26, 2020 around 7:30 p.m.

For questions or more information, please contact Sarah Grabski, Director of Communications and Administrative Services at sarahgrabski@generalmclane.org or 814-273-1033 ext 5901.